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Key Developments

Yeltsin Against Upper Chamber Dispersing After Elections

LD0812223295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1959 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Kremlin political aide Georgy Satarov referring to the Russian constitution said the Federation Council (upper house) did not have to dissolve itself immediately after the general election which is less than ten days away.

He said the president was insisting on a continuity in the legislative process (under the constitution, the Council mandate expires after the announcement of final results from elections to the lower house, the State Duma).

Nor does he rule out that the Council may discuss the next year budget even after December 12 if the Duma fails to send it to the upper house before then.

One legal expert told INTERFAX that the incumbent governors and regional parliament speakers will continue duties in the Federation Council. He said that under the new election law, the Council is a permanently rotating body made up of heads of the regional executives and legislatures.

Helicopter Carrying NDR Candidate Crashes

LD0912214595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2139 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Valeriy Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUDINKA, Krasnoyarsk region, December 10 (ITAR-TASS) — One person was killed and several others were injured in a helicopter crash over the central part of the Taimyr peninsula in the Krasnoyarsk region (the Arctic zone) on Saturday, Dudinka emergency authorities told ITAR-TASS.

The crash occurred at take-off when the helicopter was en route from Khatanga to Dudinka as part of the electioneering campaign.

Besides three crew and other passengers, Duma candidate for the Our Home Is Russia [NDR] movement Viktor Nasedkin and his aides were aboard.

Nasedkin is alive. A special commission has been set up to investigate into the accident.

Moscow Police Force Reinforced for Elections

LD0812210295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — As Russian State Duma elections draw near, the Moscow police force will be reinforced with more than three thousand Interior Ministry troops and police school cadets.

The Moscow police force has said that 2,600 Interior Ministry troops and 800 police cadets will be moved to Moscow to guard subways, offices and polling stations.

On the election day, December 17, each of the 11,000 polling stations will be guarded by a police officer, and police patrols will be on the alert in the vicinity. On the same day 2,800 volunteers will be attached to the police.

As of December 11, all Moscow police units will take tighter security measures. The number of days off will be reduced and working hours extended.

Already precautions are being taken to prevent unlawful actions at polling stations. Most of them are guarded by police during night-time.

Electoral Blocs Receive Additional R35 Million

LD0912200995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] All 43 electoral associations that are taking part in the election campaign were granted 35 million rubles [R] each by the Central Electoral Commission today. As is known, electoral blocs and associations already received 80 million rubles each for their election campaigns when they registered their lists of candidates.

Commission Rejects KRO-Proposed Referendum

MK0812133195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev: Moscow City Electoral Commission Has Not Backed Move by Congress of Russian Communities on Holding Referendum. Possibility of Petition to Court Is Not Ruled Out by KRO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An attempt by the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] to hold a referendum on the Russian Federation government's constitutional responsibility for the growth of people's prosperity and the constitutional definition of the Russian Federation as a union of peoples of Russia, was disapproved in the Moscow City Electoral Commission, which, at its yesterday's session, made a decision to deny the organizers of an all-Russia poll the registration of the questions proposed by them.

The first question — "Do you think that the growth of the people's prosperity and the increase of their life expectancy should become the main aim of the state policy and a constitutional norm of assessing the activity of the Russian Federation government?" — was found fully legitimate by the Moscow City Electoral Commission.

Yet, the wording of the second question — "Do you think that for the sake of promoting interethnic harmony and public safety, the Russian Federation should be defined by the Constitution as a union of peoples of Russia?" — made the commission reject the registration of the movement's initiative. In the event of a positive answer, the commission decided, a need to reconsider the Federation component status will arise, which runs contrary to Part 2 of Article 3 of the referendum law, banning a popular discussion of issues concerning a change in the Federation component status.

As your SEGODNYA correspondent was told in the KRO press service, the Congress will not give up the idea of the referendum. According to the press service, the Moscow City Electoral Commission will most likely have to prove the legality of its decision in court.

Reportage on Television, Radio Campaign Coverage

Yavlinskiy Gives Last Unpaid Broadcast

LD0812212395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1540 GMT 8 Dec 95

[Studio interview with Grigoriy Alekseyevich Yavlinskiy, leader of Yabloko, by Sergey Torchinskiy, on the "Elections '95" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Torchinskiy] Hello, let's continue our television election marathon. I have the honor to present Grigoriy Alekseyevich Yavlinskiy, leader of the Yabloko bloc. Grigoriy Alekseyevich, the election campaign is exhausting. You have probably toured the whole of Russia already.

[Yavlinskiy] Hello. I have come from Penza this morning. I would like to address myself once again to everybody living there and to express tremendous gratitude for the wonderful, cordial reception I got there from those thousands and thousands of people who met me in Penza. During this time I have been to Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Kamchatka, Krasnodar, Sverdlovsk, and many cities in the Urals, including Yekaterinburg, Artemovsk, Zlatoust, Miass, and Chelyabinsk. I have been to Sterlitamak and Ufa. Today, as I make my last unpaid election broadcast, I want to thank you for everything. Once it is over, I will embark on my travels once again, to meet citizens and the people.

To come to the point, let me say that today is a day on which one must answer certain questions which are asked most often.

[Torchinskiy] You have in mind a sad anniversary.

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, today is not a very happy jubilee. Today is the fourth anniversary of the collapse of the Soviet Union. There is no reason to be particularly enthusiastic or joyful about this day. The events that happened four years ago were a tragedy for very many people. They have caused a great deal of pain. The worst thing is that there is still no answer in respect of our 25 million fellow citizens who now live, as it were, abroad. There is no answer to the question of what to do about this. That's the most important thing.

Today it is so very important to seek culprits. Everybody knows who they are. The important thing today is to answer the question of what to do about this. We would like to offer a concrete action plan in this area, which was first proposed in 1990. A treaty — an economic treaty, on an economic union between all the republics of the USSR — was prepared in 1991. Incidentally, on 18 October 1991 this treaty was signed by 10 union — former union republics, which did not include the Baltic states, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. It was also signed by Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. This treaty should have begun to work. I headed the group of 200 experts dealing with this. We prepared 24 agreements on all the main areas of cooperation between Russia and the former republics of the USSR.

Today this remains a very topical theme. This remains the main question of all our economic and state policy. Today, for very many reasons, we cannot conclude either military or political unions with the former republics of the USSR. But today it is urgently necessary immediately to form an economic union, a very serious and all-embracing one. This will include an agreement on payments, a banking union, a payments union, a monetary union, a customs union, mutual protection of investments, and protection of the interests and social rights of citizens, all citizens of the former Soviet Union. We must achieve free trade throughout the former union. We must open up markets for each other. We must ensure that economic ties between Russian enterprises and enterprises in the former Soviet Union, as a whole, are preserved. Markets and economic opportunities for trade are a guarantee for all future integration.

If there is an economic union, everything will be possible. There will be opportunities to cooperate peacefully and freely in the economic sphere. Everything will be possible. That is how we will resolve the Crimean problem and all our other problems.

[Torchinskiy] Grigoriy Alekseyevich, there is not much time left. What is the core of your program? What are the most important things in it? What do you cherish most?

[Yavlinskiy] Unfortunately we cannot set out the essence of our program here. It can be checked out and read everywhere. But the main thing in it is the struggle against poverty. Yabloko is offering an economic program which intends, over a period of four years, to eliminate poverty from every home. Our slogan is: We will protect you against poverty. Our objective is to prevent the bankruptcy of very many citizens, to prevent unemployment, and to ensure that economic growth gets going in our country. The whole point of our program is the idea that there cannot be any economic reform or economic program which does not pay pensions, does not pay wages, which destroys the concept of property and deprives people of their inheritance. We advocate an economic program that will protect people against poverty. That is the essence of our program.

It presupposes a different system of taxation, a different budgetary and monetary policy, a policy of tariff and non-tariff restrictions, a different policy on interest rates, different operations on the banking market, on the financial market, the land market. We are including in this a whole package of measures that are needed to ensure that there is no poverty in Russia. That is the point of all of this program which we are working on. We did not prepare it for these elections. We worked on it throughout these last five years. Yabloko is a alliance of professionals which aims to protect Russia against poverty. That is why we are taking part in the elections.

[Torchinskiy] I recently heard some of the things that [Vladimir] Zhirinovskiy has been saying. Your nationality, as it were, lets you down. That's what he says. You have some kind of foreign doctorate, he claims.

[Yavlinskiy] Well, first and foremost...

[Torchinskiy] ... and your health is not up to scratch either. He's saying things like that.

[Yavlinskiy] First and foremost, I am not a doctor but a candidate of science. Since I became a politician, I haven't considered myself to have any moral right to defend any academic degrees or doctorates. As regards my nationality, I can say the following for everyone to hear. To all those who hate Jews, I am a Jew. To all those who hate Russians, I am a Russian. To all those who hate Tatars, I am a Tatar. To all those who hate Christians, I am Christian. I want everybody to know this. I am a human being and a citizen of my country. My aim is to defend my country against all those things being advocated by the person whose name you have just mentioned. That is what my father and my grandfather did. I will do this, too, even if I do not achieve the goal for the sake of which I am addressing you today.

[Torchinskiy] Thank you. We have a few seconds left. Would you like to appeal to your ...

[Yavlinskiy]...Yes, I want to say that I have no more time in which to address you. I am grateful to all those people who have met me during this time. I have met 70,000 people. Thank you very much for your support. I am confident that you will not vote in such a way as to hand over the future of your children and your own future to people who will take Russia in a direction which you do not want. I wish you all the very best, dear friends.

[Torchinskiy] You still have a few more seconds.

[Yavlinskiy] A few more seconds? Let's not measure those seconds. Let's not be boring. Let me wish you all the best

[Torchinskiy] Thank you.

Zhirinovskiy Denounces Democrats

LD0912165395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 9 Dec 95

[Recorded address by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), for the "Elections '95" program. Introducing the broadcast, the announcer warns listeners that in his speech Zhirinovskiy often breaks the law forbidding use of the mass media to incite ethnic, class, religious, or social intolerance]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good morning, dear citizens of Russia! Get up quicker from your beds, only one week remains. In one week's time the future of the Motherland will be decided. It is not just the matter of coming and dropping your ballot paper in the box; it is not just one year for the worse or for the better; it is the whole future that is at stake. If you keep in power this fifth column which illegally came to power four years ago, it will be the end of Russia.

Gaydar has lost today, they say, so we'll put up Yavlinskiy, who is better. What is better about him? What? That he spent less time in a psychiatric ward? One and a half years he spent there, and Gaydar is on his way there too. They are no different. This whole group of democrats all studied in the West, or had training there.

Let us take Yavlinskiy. He is doctor of economics. In the United States it takes five or six years of study to become a doctor of economics. He did not do that. His dissertation is a fake. They especially trained this economist for us, with American thinking. But this is no good for Russia. They asked him: Grisha, you are a Jew. You see how much evil Jews brought upon Russia. So he says: If Jews brought so much evil, maybe I — that's him, a Jew, Grisha — will become president and do something good, to make up for all the evil they have done, so to say. Because you know that in the first Soviet Government 90 percent were Jews, as well as in all subsequent ones.

That is why American Jews understand that a certain anti-Semitic feeling in Russia has a foundation.

But we are not anti-Semitic. We are not nationalists. We are not bothered about anyone's social background. The LDPR is against any discrimination.

The communists' trouble lies in their social approach. They favor workers and peasants, but think that the intelligentsia, landowners, and officers should leave Russia.

Democrats are terrible nationalists and dirty capitalists.

So, there are three options for future development. You can go back to Brezhnev's socialism with Zyuganov's face. You don't need this because it's no good to be a lazy bum, a drinker, a sluggard. They will give you a berth in a communal apartment and a pension of 50 rubles, which you'll leave in a bar.

If we leave everything as it is today, 1 million people will have a good life, but you, and all others will live worse and worse because in the next few days they can stop increases in rents and electricity bills. [as heard] They will pay wages, scholarship, and pension arrears to everyone on about 15 December, but they will rip you off again starting 1 January because they all work for the West. They all have accounts in the West and families in the West. When you make your choice, think about the leader.

Programs may be good, and everyone will make promises, but they will deceive you again because they are from the same party, the same team, that tattered team. All they do is change packs. Take Yakovlev, who was an ideologist of the building of socialism, has become an ideologist of the building of capitalism. Take Popov, who was dean of the faculty of economics and read socialist political economy — now he is for the market. They all are deceiving you. They all have been in power, they all are in power. They take off their jackets and put on sweaters, take off their trousers and put on jeans, they play at being democrats. You want rock music? Fine! Prostitution? Fine! All kinds of saunas? Fine! Anything to remain in power.

That is why you must get off your beds quickly and think. Enough sleeping! Wake up your neighbors and relatives. In a week's time, think who you are going to vote for.

Our newspapers and flyers are everywhere. Here is our party's address and phone number. You will be welcome; we'll provide you with everything. Subscribe to our newspaper. It has a circulation of 4 million — not a single party in the world can boast this. Tomorrow morning at 1200 I expect you all in Pushkin Square. Moscow's young people, young members of our party, will address you, will address all Muscovites. This is the last meeting because only one week remains. On 15 December all campaigning must finish.

You will not have time to think who to elect. There are three forces. You see that today's democrats will bring ruin. Back to communists — a one-party system and again "Long live the Communist Party of the Russian Federation!"

The third option is ours. One does not need the USSR; one does not need the CIS. We will end the war in Chechnya, there will not be any war in Tajikistan. We will take republics back only on a voluntary basis, only those who want it. Many of them will want it.

In contrast, we the LDPR will be categorically against Transcaucasia. Azerbaijan, Armenia, and a part of Georgia — they will never become a part of Russia. Abkhazia wants to join, and we must take it. Our border should lie from Makhachkala [Dagestan] to Sukhumi [Georgia]. Kazakhstan is Russia's territory — the southern Urals. As for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, they should not be accepted.

As for the Baltics, leave some to them, for God's sake — the town of Tallinn for example. But Narva is a Russian town. As for Latvia, it's mainly inhabited by Russians. Lithuania has its 1938 Constitution, which says that the town of Kaunas is the capital, plus there are the towns of Shaulyai and Panevezhis. Keep them as you please. But not Vilnius — that's Belarus.

Belarus is knocking at the Kremlin's door, but there is no boss in the Kremlin. The boss is in a rest home, in a hospital, in Sochi, or playing tennis, or on a ship, or catch him in an ice hole, as Popov did at one time and so on. Instead of looking after the country, they play ball games because they do not understand what is going on.

So everyone who wants to return to us [pauses] ... This is what our program is like: the economy for everybody — the state sector should be powerful. We need a military industry, not for war but for selling weapons. Not selling them for a war, but every country has an army which needs weapons, and we have the most powerful military factories. We should not import foodstuffs. Give us money, and we will give it to our peasants and will have healthy food.

Taxes — let us change taxes. Every citizen and every enterprise should keep 60 percent, and the maximum tax should be 40 percent. Let us do away with crime. But how? In the way that [General] Kulikov does it today [in Chechnya] — by bringing back the professionals, reinforcing their right to use weapons and providing more amour.

But think! There are many problems. We should not have republics. We should have territories and provinces — you name it — but they should not be based on the ethnic principle, only on the territorial principle. Everybody wants to live with us, Turks and Finno-Ugric peoples. We are tolerant. We Russians are kind; we will not shoot anyone, there will be no gulags, no repressions. There will be democracy for everyone and an economy for the majority; there will always be some lazy bums and thieves. There will be a multiparty democracy, but there will be one ruling party and some opposition parties.

That is why on 17 December you should vote for the LDPR list, number 33, and forget all other numbers. Goodbye, dear Russians! See you tomorrow at Pushkin Square!

Ilyukhin Discusses 1930's Repressions

LD0912190595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1540 GMT 9 Dec 95

[From the "Elections '95" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Presenter Andrey Bystritskiy] Viktor Ivanovich Ilyukhin, representative of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF], is in the studio. He is now chairman of the committee on national security of Russia's State Duma. Go ahead, please.

[Ilyukhin] Thank you. Good evening. Esteemed Russians, today I will not be talking about our party's program, or the policies we are presenting at the elections. Quite a lot has been said about this already and more will be said. My colleagues and friends have things to say. Our opponents are also talking quite actively about this at the moment. Basically, they have lifted entire paragraphs from our policy documents. This is no coincidence either, because Russia today is moving leftwards as never before and the prestige of our Communist Party is growing.

Today I want to talk about another problem. The fact is that the 1930s repressions are again being raised as a problem for discussion. I think this is no coincidence. Nor is it a coincidence that the deluded 70-year old academician, Aleksandr Yakovlev, is appearing on TV screens and the pages of newspapers. Why is it no coincidence? Because they want to conceal Russia's ruinous state and critical condition behind a debate on the 1930's repressions.

Yes, the repressions happened. We do not deny that, but the repressions were assessed long ago, both by our party, our society, and our state. I can say that 40 years have passed since Stalin's death. An entire new generation has grown up that knows absolutely nothing about those repressions.

As for dissidents — yes, such a category of people existed, but let me say they were a ridiculously small group of people who did not in any way reflect the situation that existed in the Soviet Union.

Looking at the larger picture, the charge that 40 million, 50 million, 100 million people and more were repressed or destroyed in the Soviet era is laid at our door. Let us investigate this charge. With a knowledge of the evidence, documents, and historical facts, I can state quite plainly that during the 20 years before Stalin's death slightly more than 4 million people were held criminally responsible in all the camps and penal settlements. If you compare this with the figures for the last eight years — if only that — you will see that the relative figures are no less. I can say that about 700,000 people were sentenced to various degrees of punishment — to be more precise, those connected with the death penalty. But this category, as well as including political people, also covers — and primarily so — all those who were convicted for conventional crimes.

Today I want to make it clear that the total was not 100 million, or even 40 million. In 1913, [as heard] Russia had a population of only 150 million. If 100 million were destroyed in the repressions and 27 million perished or were killed during the Great Patriotic War, how many would remain in Russia, in the Soviet Union?

I also remind you of another figure. By the end of the 1970s, by the beginning of the 1980s, the population of the Soviet Union was almost 300 million. So, one asks, where did they all come from?

Today I want to talk about other repressions, basically about a policy that is comparable with the policy of deliberate genocide, which we are all witnessing today. I would like to ask that selfsame Aleksandr Yakovlev: Who is responsible for the fact that Russia now has about 10 million refugees, displaced persons, and migrants, who have abandoned their homes and haunts for fear of freezing to death, for fear of physical violence? Who is responsible for that? The present regime. Who is responsible for the fact that, in interethnic clashes alone, over 500,000 people have been killed in Russia since 1991, since the signing of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha accords. Over 500,000 people are dying an unnatural death every year. Who should be held responsible for this? The present regime.

I want to ask Aleksandr Yakovlev: Who is responsible for the fact that teachers and pupils are today fainting from hunger during lessons? Who is responsible for the fact that on collective farms, state farms — and not just in the countryside — wages are not being paid for 18 months, two years at a time, and so on? Who is responsible for the fact that over 60,000 Russian citizens are currently committing suicide every year? Who is responsible for this? That is why they are raising the repressions of the 1930s.

There is more I could tell you. After all, for the first time since the war, the population of Russia is beginning to fall. Deaths are twice as high as births. Last year the population fell by a million. It is not just us — the opposition — who are saying this. The United Nations is now saying that if things continue this way in Russia, the population will fall by almost 15 million by the start of the next century. Who will be responsible for this?

I will cite another terrible prediction, but let's hope it does not come to pass. Again the United Nations is saying that if the situation in Russia does not change, only 30-40 million Russians will remain in Russia by the halfway mark of the next century. Today only 17-20 percent of all young people of school age are left physically and mentally healthy. Today it appears that our nation is unable to reproduce itself. Who is responsible for this? The present regime. I put special stress on this, Aleksandr Yakovlev.

I also want Russian citizens to be aware of another terrible figure. Today Russia is basically being turned into a raw material appendage. Today Russia has been handed over for looting. Over $20 billion are being exported from Russia annually and left to sit in foreign banks. We have been speaking about dissidents, about their departure. They did not like the political situation. But who is responsible for the fact that thousands of promising scientists have already emigrated and are now working to enhance the economic and financial might of foreign states? Who is responsible for the fact that the flight of capital has now reached huge proportions, for the fact that Russia no longer has gold reserves to all intents and purposes?

I say yet again: Russia today does not need to be saved from us. Russia today must be saved from hypocrites who have bred too prolifically in Russia.

Today the problem of the repressions is being raised by all those who are afraid of being brought to book for what has been done in Russia. But they will have to answer for it, first and foremost before the people, not before anybody else. Thank you.

[Bystritskiy] You have just a few seconds left before the gong. Maybe you have a clinching phrase?

[Ilyukhin] Thank you. I simply call on all Russian citizens to make a sober reevaluation of the situation that we all find ourselves in.

[Bystritskiy] Time drags by. It would be interesting to know... [interrupted by gong] It is now the next bloc's turn, but it is amazing how frivolously human lives are exploited in political polemics — poor peasants, dispossessed kulaks, poor POWs who return from fascist captivity only to be sent off to Stalin's camps!

Gaydar, Ryzhkov Debate Deposit Losses

LD0912144995 Moscow NTV in Russian
2120 GMT 8 Dec 95

[Debate between Yegor Gaydar, leader of Russia's Democratic Choice and former Russian prime minister, and Nikolay Ryzhkov, leader of the Power to the People! bloc and former Soviet prime minister, moderated by Dmitriy Pinsker; place and date not given, Gaydar and Ryzhkov speak in separate offices; from the "Versions" program presented by Sergey Dorenko — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dorenko] Hello! For practically the past four years the Russian parliament has been occupied with the problem of returning savings banks' deposits that vanished into thin air at the start of the Yeltsin-Gaydar government reforms. That was most likely an element of political struggle to attract people who had been robbed and is extremely useful from all points of view. Now, the government of Viktor Chernomyrdin, which is in no way guilty of that robbery, wants to return the money. [passage omitted]

[begin Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Russian Federation State Duma deputy and leader of Yabloko movement, recording] First, what happened with the population's deposits is internal state debt. Second, the state must officially recognize it as internal state debt. Third, the state cannot return the money simply by printing it because inflation will be so high that all the money that has been returned will simply be lost again and everything, in this respect, will be as it was, as it is now, but the collapse of the economy in this event is simply inevitable. However, there are very many means of indirectly compensating the population for the deposits that they had. [passage omitted: Yavlinskiy says it is quite right and proper for the government to return the savings lost by the elderly] [end recording]

[Dorenko] We are happy to fork out for what was stolen by previous governments but it would be nice to know just who the thief was. It is generally thought that it was either Ryzhkov or Gaydar. We give them the opportunity to exchange compliments.

[Ryzhkov] I think that Gaydar is guilty of many things in our country. The first thing he is guilty of is that he embarked upon shock therapy, upon shock therapy methods which practically have put the country in the state it is today. You know, output has fallen by 50 percent. Living standards have dropped sharply. Everything that we see today is the fault of Gaydar. He knew what he was getting into. If he did not know what lay in store for the country he did not have to get involved in the matter, but if he knew what would happen to the country, he bears a huge responsibility for what he has done to the country.

[Gaydar] You know, I replied to that question countless times, and I probably will reply to it countless times until the day I die. [passage omitted]

It should be understood that not a single titan, villain, or genius can in a single day guarantee... [pauses] devalue the people's savings. A great deal of work had to be done to bring this about. The governments of Nikolay Tikhonov [former chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers], Ryzhkov, and Valentin Pavlov [former finance minister] worked well and actively along these lines.

[Ryzhkov] Mr. Gaydar, pardon me. Mr. Gaydar should stop talking rubbish, that is the first thing. If he considers himself to be a man of substance, he should say to the people honestly: Yes, I am guilty. Yes, I did not think all that through. That is my fault. I bear responsibility for that. He is not brave enough to say that. So he begins to put the blame on Pavlov, and he calls Ryzhkov names.

[Gaydar] I knew what I was doing. That is why so few others wanted the job. I maybe thought that the situation was not quite as disastrous as it was when I agreed. I did not know that there was no hard currency left at all, that it had all been squandered. I did not know that all the assets of the Vneshekonombank [Foreign Economic Bank], where people also kept their $10 billion, had also been squandered. I knew that things were not in order there but I did not know that the entire $10 billion had been squandered. However, I think I would have agreed even if I had known.

[Ryzhkov] The Vneshekonombank in 1990 had enterprise accounts worth $2.5 billion. No matter how difficult things were for me then, something should have been bought then in that very difficult situation. I did not allow the money, the hard currency held by enterprises in Vneshekonombank accounts, to be sequestered. The country never had $15 billion of hard currency reserves, and there is no need to invent figures here. Our maximum hard currency reserves when I was in power — incidentally, we created them — were $5 billion. In 1991 I said that, unless I am mistaken, there was $2.5 billion. That is all. These astronomical figures have just been plucked out of thin air.

[Gaydar] We had two main types of assets that could be realized in 1985. The first of these was the country's gold reserve. It was guaranteed. It was written on a coupon. It guaranteed our savings. According to official international statistics there was 1,300 tonnes of gold. By the end of 1991, 289.6 tonnes of gold was handed over to our government.

[Pinsker] That was what was left?

[Gaydar] That was what was left. It was less than 20 percent of the gold reserve. The situation was even more catastrophic as far as hard currency reserves were concerned. In 1985 there was $15 billion, not a lot, but on the whole, a fair amount. By the end of 1991, when these assets came over from the USSR Government to the Russian Government, $16 million dollars was left, one-thousandth as much.

[Ryzhkov] [passage omitted] Why was there 2,300 tonnes of gold under Stalin while at the end of 1985 I inherited 580 tonnes. [passage omitted]

By 1990, there was 780 tonnes of gold. That is what there was when I was in power. [passage omitted]

Chernomyrdin Addresses Voters

LD0812224495 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1735 GMT 8 Dec 95

[Election broadcast on behalf of "Russia Is Our Home" by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear fellow citizens, people of Russia and voters! I would like to speak to you now not from the television screen and not as part of an official obligatory pre-election measure, but to speak about how things are at the moment and what will happen in the future. I am addressing all of you today, irrespective of whether you trust me and the present government, and whether you support the Russia Is Our Home movement. I am addressing you now not only as chairman of your government but as a man who is aware of the many problems facing us and who is striving, together with you, to find ways of solving them. I would like particularly to speak to those who have not yet decided what party and what candidates they will vote for on the important day of 17 December.

I think today it is necessary simply to tell people about the program of the movement Russia Is Our Home. Perhaps we should present out position to the wise judgement of the people of Russia, the voters. I have already had to do this more than once. I am often being asked: what is your movement all about, why all these popularity ratings, all this struggle and why am I set on it? Of course, like any other person, I would like to be more at home with my family rather than devote all my time to work and also to work for our movement. But there is a word "business". Once you have started doing something, you must finish it. This is what I was taught by my teachers and by my father. This is what I myself am thinking now. How else can I think since it is our great Russia we are talking about here. We have started the reforms. We have made progress. Now we must finish them.

Today it is very necessary to explain to people precisely what we propose to do and how we propose to finish the reforms in the country. And here I will have to explain once again the difference between our program and the proposals made by other political associations and explain the positive meaning the core of the position of Russia Is Our Home is offering for the majority of the people in Russia.

We are not afraid that some people in Russia will give preference to other parties and not to us: this is normal and this is natural. On the other hand, I believe that, after that hurricane of political advertising by 43 parties, many of our sensible voters have already chosen reliability, commitment, and stability, and have given up for lost some other parties and candidates.

Today let's talk about our movement. Russia Is Our Home is being mentioned most frequently at present. And this is right since it is your home too. Support by people throughout the country is growing. On the other hand, criticism from other political blocs and parties is growing too. In this criticism those are particularly active who have failed even to find an appropriate name for their parties and are going to the voters, using the names of more or less well-known politicians and their number in the ballot paper. There is something un-Russian in this, there is something alien in such a numbering and in the word "bloc" itself.

We are not Viktor Chernomyrdin's bloc, nor the ruling party, nor a political mirage. We strive to become and are becoming a popular movement, whose ranks include scientists and peasants, entrepreneurs and workers, office staff, and executives of different ranks.

What unites us? We are united not by big words about saving Russia and the greatness of its power or by reckless prospects for endless reforms. This is all quite alien to us. We are united in the Russia Is Our Home movement, first and foremost, by realism and experience of life, by sensible vision of the historical truth of the present day. It is in precisely this key that we advocate peaceful and persistent construction, rather than the country's salvation — in inverted commas — from who knows who. It is in precisely this key that we see Russia's greatness as a powerful, stable and developing state. That is precisely how we approach the concept of reform, which is a subject which deserves special mention.

The NDR [Russia Is Our Home] movement is sometimes also described as the party of conservatives rather than reformers. Only for convinced Marxists can the word "conservative" have wholly negative connotations. We, on the other hand, believe that a reasonable degree of conservatism, which manifests itself in an unwillingness thoughtlessly and constantly to revise everything which already exists, is quite simply essential.

Our position in this respect is a simple one. Russia no longer needs revolutions and abrupt changes. Indeed, such things are scarcely possible nowadays. We believe that most inhabitants of the country are already fed up with the revolutionaries and overactive reformers. It is simply time to complete the reforms themselves. We have had plenty of them in our country. There is a more acute need — more acute, probably, than ever before — namely to stop, to be circumspect and not to hurry.

But this in no way means that the reforms are not necessary in a general sense. It is about something else. We must complete the present stage of the way they are being carried out in Russia with important additions to the building which has already been erected.

Our position in this respect is a simple one. There must be social changes, supported by the majority of the citizens and carried out in their interests. Here there is much that the new parliament, and all of us too, will have to think about.

It is important, however, that there should be a realistic and serious plan for the implementation of these reforms. It is important to find an approach that does not trap the idea of reform in party debates and disputes, an approach that can be implemented. The Russia Is Our Home movement has such a plan and approach.

And in this respect our wise conservatism blends perfectly with our desire to propose social innovations for Russia, from the very first having concrete practical content where it is clear what is required from the state and what they can realistically give to the people.

There are many such projects. I am delighted that such projects are being submitted to the government, are being discussed at practical conferences held by the NDR. They don't come from high-sounding offices and bureaucrats, or from [words indistinct] meritorious saviors of Russia, but from young, intelligent and energetic people, from entrepreneurs, engineers, sociologists and doctors. By the way, it is the energy of young people which distinguishes us from many others, including the Communists.

The projects about which I am speaking are not copied from western textbooks for improving society — they are ours, Russian, and for Russia. It is impossible to talk about all these important ideas today. I will speak about three of the more interesting ones, albeit diverse, weighty, feasible and capable of bringing benefit to many people literally from the first days of their implementation. For example, the state program of aid to people who are suffering from sugar diabetes. There is no point in simply sympathizing with their plight. We must purposefully help them. [words indistinct] millions of these suffering people. But there is an original method by which on a truly state-wide scale we can do everything possible to ease their situation.

The method is simple. Everyone in need of help will be given, free of charge, a little personal radio receiver to be carried at all times. This radio receiver will be tuned to just one frequency which will broadcast round-the-clock information on the availability of medicine in the chemists, doctors' advice for the patient, recommendations on the use of folk medicine and so on, not to mention state supervision over the production, import and distribution of insulin.

Some will say this is too small-scale for a state program. No, it is not small. It does not only mean that millions of people can be helped in this way. This program is a real social reform, a specific, targeted help for every individual. Reform does not have to be cloaked in fine words. In this sense reform is, first and foremost, practical action. Is such a path possible? It is possible, and necessary too.

We have other projects. For example, a program of social protection and help for retired army officers. This issue is now being raised by virtually all parties, and almost all of them are promising various abstract ways of ensuring that military pensioners are able to live a decent life. But what about providing something specific, backed up by legislative guarantees, and supported by the state budget and private entrepreneurs? Such a thing can be done.

There is a program under which former servicemen are to be provided with jobs. What sort of program is it? There are several approaches. One of these is the law on compulsory allocation of land to a person retiring from the armed forces after serving a certain number of years. The land is to be given not just to build a dacha or use as a vegetable plot. It should be a piece of land with full rights of ownership, so it can be lived on, used in any way and even sold. A specific program of helping former servicemen to set up small and medium-scale businesses has been drawn up to complement this scheme. Indeed, such people are as a rule not merely pensioners. They represent a completely healthy and economically active section of society. Let's regard them as such. We should help them with substantial loans and an opportunity to buy or rent on preferential terms equipment for small enterprises — many of them can be helped in this way. Our movement has drafted a quite realistic program in this area, which can be implemented in a short space of time.

But this will need the support of Russian citizens, wisdom on the part of legislators in the new Duma, and coordination between government and the state bodies to which it can be entrusted.

These two initiatives are also social reforms, specific and targeted. They do not aspire to global dimensions, but they can offer a real, actual help to a real, not imaginary person, our own Russian officer, to quickly find his place in civilian life, to equip himself for the modern Russian economy.

Let's look at the problem of social reforms — the sensible, the competent, the long-term and and specific — in an even broader way. Let's ask those who promise social guarantees for the protection of all members of society if they have realistic plans to achieving them? It seems to me that by no means all of them, even when the parties are not proposing utopia in the form of a return to the Soviet version of socialism.

The platforms of various movements close to the western-type social-democrats are erroneous. Here I mean, above all, Yabloko, Russia's Choice, Boris Fedorov's group, and a number of other blocs oriented toward Western models and parties. They are erroneous mainly because of the lack of realism and for their promise to accomplish within two-three years everything in Russia in the same way as such a small, well-to-do, quiet country as Sweden. Russia is a far more complex country, and not a quiet one. The experience of the last seven reformative years shows that European-type social democracy is not the path for Russia.

Today I do not want to talk about disagreements with our opponents in detail. I would like to talk about something else, about someone who has been forgotten by many of the reformers, the civil servant. For some reason or another in recent years insulting words have been thrown at the civil servant too frequently and fecklessly by all kinds of "saviors" of Russia — critics of the government. For some reason all civil servants are "petty functionaries", "bureaucrats," and sometimes even "parasites." Why are they being called these things? How can a rural teacher be a bureaucrat or petty functionary? Or an employee of the courts or the procuracy, or a policeman, customs officer, forest warden, state librarian — these are not petty functionaries but serving people, people of the state, first and foremost. They have been the support of the state foundations since time immemorial. Their work is not always apparent, especially today during such times of change which have been occurring in Russia. But our state cannot look forward to a good future for itself without them.

We must not only respect the civil servant in Russia. In the near future we must do much, much more than has been done not just for the social protection of these people, but also for a significant increase in their status in society by improving their wages, benefits and other things.

In recent years the government has been able to do much. I will mention just the introduction of a unified wage scale according to category. But this is not the end of it. The importance of the problem is obvious. If we give a worthy place in society to millions of civil servants and define them as a single social category then we will able to count on strengthening our state at all levels and in many spheres of state life: in science, education, in the sphere of culture, medical service, to name just a few.

This is not the only point, of course. One does not have to be an academician or a political analyst to realize that, by strengthening the status, the prestige of the civil servant, of the serving person, at various levels, we are creating a section of people that will be loyal to Russia in the long-term future, people who will not be affected in their capacity as civil servants by political storms and winds. The civil servant will feel protected against the changes of power and will be doing his job honestly and quietly for the benefit of the country. Let's hope, incidentally, that there will be no particular political storms in our future.

How can we proceed along the path of strengthening the social status of the civil servant, how can we enhance it? Of course, not everything can be done at once, but why do we try not only to index-link the wages of the civil servant, but also to create for them a considered system of programs of the kind I mentioned when I spoke about people being discharged from the armed forces. Doesn't the civil servant deserve a right to be allocated an allotment of land, to participate in the program of support for small businesses? Yes he does, and not less than others. Can the state help its worker in this respect? Of course, it can and it must do this, it must give and look for — as Russia Is Our Home is proposing — new effective ways and not just loud reforming. Incidentally, it is not necessary to give such programs the title of reforms; they simply need to be found, considered and — this is the main thing — implemented. And people will support us because such state affairs are just what they want; it is not just nice words.

That's our position, and we stick firmly by it. Practice, experience, realism and responsibility, together with the innovative qualities of the young people responsible for Russia's destiny. That's our formula of realistic, and not inflated achievements in the sphere of social changes. Not reforms for the sake of reforms but changes for the better in every person's life will become, in the opinion of our movement, the focus in the social life of our country in the very near future.

The Russia Is Our Home movement needs your support, dear people of Russia! You are our support, you are not just voters. I think that many millions of you understand me and are sharing the objectives and the principles of our movement. We will, in the Russian tradition, place before the whole world a strong house that will never be in need of any restructuring.

CPRF Ad Contrasts Deeds of Communists, Democrats

MM1112091895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA ROSSII on 7 December 1995 publishes on page 2 an election advertisement for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] headlined "Voter! Make Your Choice!" In the top left-hand corner is a box comprising the logo of the CPRF and its slogan "Labor, People's Power, Socialism, RUSSIA," accompanied by the slogan "For Our Soviet Motherland!" above the headline. The advertisement is divided into two columns, one headed "Communists" and the other "'Democrats'," contrasting the achievements of the former with the failures of the latter. The various points are in different typefaces. The text is as follows:

"Communists

"— Defeated the Hitlerite monster. Saved the people from fascist slavery.

"— In three years they completely overcame the ravages of war and fed the people.

"— Made the fatherland an economically and politically independent great power which the whole world reckoned with and respected.

"— Ensured an annual population increase of 2 million people in the USSR.

"— Eliminated unemployment.

"— Since 1928 kept rent at no more than 1-2 percent of the average monthly family income.

"— Ensured free medical treatment and education and the lowest prices in the world for medicines, sanatorium vouchers, young pioneer camps, and kindergartens, books, periodicals, and newspapers. Every family subscribed to two or three newspapers and one periodical.

"— Kept criminals in camps where they should be.

"— Condemned political repressions, rehabilitated innocent victims.

"— Stalin: Returned the west of Ukraine and Belarus, the Baltic states, Moldova, South Sakhalin, and the Kurils into the bosom of the great power, and added Tuva and Kaliningrad to them.

"The 'Democrats'"

"— Nurtured Dudayevism and unleashed war in Chechnya, for which we are paying with the zinc coffins of Russian guys.

"— In four years they destroyed a healthy economy and reduced the people to hunger and poverty.

"— Destroyed the USSR. Turned Russia into America's political 'man-servant,' an international beggar, and a colony of world imperialism.

"— In 1992-1995 they reduced the population by 2 million.

"— Introduced and legitimized unemployment.

"— Increased rent to 25-60 percent of the average monthly family income.

"— Introduced payment for education at institutes of higher education and for medical treatment, and raised the prices of medicines and vouchers. Sanatoriums and rest homes are standing empty. Kindergartens are being turned into businessmen's offices. Over 50 percent of families do not subscribe to any newspaper.

"— Criminals are running the business sphere and bossing around the political world.

"— They have introduced repressions and are provoking political killings. On 3-4 October 1993 they fired tank guns, heavy machineguns, and assault rifles at the Supreme Soviet. Killed between 1,500 and several thousand defenseless people. They have not condemned their own executioners' activities in any way.

"— Yeltsin: Turned a great power into a pitiful stub. Left 25 million Russians defenseless and unprotected in the 'near abroad.'"

Regional Activities

Attempt Made To Assassinate Candidate in Yekaterinburg

LD0712182795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1453 GMT 7 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, Dec 7 (INTERFAX-Eurasia) — An attempt was made to kill Artiom Bikov, candidate for the State Duma elections from a single-mandate district in Yekaterinburg.

Last night a package with an unidentified object was placed in his flat. A team of sappers from the local police headquarters discovered that it was a home-made explosive device of devastating power, Bikov himself told INTERFAX-Eurasia on Thursday.

He views the incident as a political provocation. No one has threatened him so far, Bikov said.

Investigators Suspect Contract Killing in Lezhnev Case

LD0812183495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1236 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHELYABINSK, December 8 (ITAR-TASS) — The investigators of the murder of Mikhail Lezhnev and the shooting of entrepreneur Andrey Kosilov do not rule out a direct linkage of the two crimes committed at about the same time on last Thursday [7 December] evening, according to a source who spoke to ITAR-TASS on condition of anonymity here today.

According to the source, during the last elections to the Soviet parliament, Andrey Kosilov was a person representing Lezhnev in the campaign. The source suggested that the two men were also cooperating in the course of the current election campaign. Kosilov who has since the break-up of the Soviet Union become an influential figure in financial circles was able to provide considerable support for Lezhnev on his way to win a seat in the State Duma lower house of parliament in the coming elections.

The investigators told ITAR-TASS that Kosilov was in serious condition but the doctors hoped he would live. Surgeons have already extracted three of the four bullets that hit him.

The investigators also told ITAR-TASS that the gunman who shot and killed Mikhail Lezhnev had been waiting to shoot in a cottage under construction located, according to different sources, at a distance of 50 to 120 meters from the doorstep of the house in which the man lived. The gunman used an assault rifle and his shot betrayed a professional as the single shot to the head killed Lezhnev immediately. Such precision in the night time, the investigators said, could hardly be achieved by an amateur.

The killing of the nominee of the election alliance "Our home is Russia", Mikhail Lezhnev, was motivated politically, according to a statement of the Union of agricultural producers and land users of the Chelyabinsk region.

The statement addressed to the President of the Russian Federation, the head of government and the regional administrator was circulated today by the Chelyabinsk regional administration.

The statement says that the agricultural producers of the Southern Urals nominated three representatives for the State Duma. One of them, Mikhail Lezhnev, has been killed by people who oppose Russia's revival and whose act was politically motivated.

"We declare a resolute protest against such methods of political struggle and demand that the murderers be found and punished in keeping with the law," says the statement, signed on behalf of the Union of agricultural producers and land users by its chairman Zhakslyk Altynbayev, a candidate for the State Duma.

Also today, a report came from Magnitogorsk where General-Director of the Russian House publishers Yaroslav Izvalstev was heavily wounded with the bullets passing through his liver and kidneys. He is alive but the local investigators cannot question the man in his state.

Murder of Newspaper Official Linked to Elections

LD1012173495 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1650 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yaroslav Zvaltsev, financial director of RUSSKIY DOM newspaper, died from severe injuries in Magnitogorsk on 10 December, in an incident directly connected with the election campaign in Magnitogorsk constituency No. 185, State Duma deputy Aleksandr Pochinok told Moscow Echo radio station.

Pochinok said that on 4 December men describing themselves as members of staff of Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine economic security service — from which Dinus Safiyyllin is running for the Duma in the constituency — came to the RUSSKIY DOM newspaper offices and started threatening the financial director. On 5 December the same men came again, one of them this time showing a Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine economic security service identity card under the name of Likhachev. This time the threats were directed to the newspaper's chief editor, who was warned "not to poke his nose into big politics."

On the evening of 5 December the newspaper's financial director was gravely wounded after being shot twice in the back. He died on 10 December. Zvaltsev, who was 25 years-old, left two children.

Pochinok thinks "there are substantial grounds for assuming that the killing took place because the positions of candidate deputies were not reflected wholly appropriately."

"The men who came to the editorial office making threats represented the interests of Safiyyullin, who is standing in this constituency. They were simply demanding he should be given preference during the election campaign, and for such a petty reason as this went as far as to kill him," Pochinok said.

The deputy thinks that "during the investigation everything possible will be done to portray the men who came to the editorial office as ordinary criminals and to destroy any connection between the visits and the actual murder."

Duma Voting Begins on Sakhalin, Kurils

LD1012184395 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several hundred residents of Sakhalin and the Kurils today took part in the elections of the deputies to the State Duma. Early voting took place in a number of inaccessible places, at meteorological stations, border posts, and herdsmen's camps.

Yeltsin Appeals to Chechen Republic on Elections

LD0912130195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1206 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — The coming elections in the Chechen Republic of the head of state and deputies to the State Duma of Russia on 17 December are an event that "can and must play an important part in Chechnya's return to peaceful life," Russian president Boris Yeltsin said today in his address to the people of the Chechen Republic. The text of the address was circulated today by the press service of the Russian head of state.

"I believe that you will elect a worthy person to the post of the head of state," says the address — which opens and closes with a welcome and good wishes in the Chechen language — "who will have to shoulder the difficult task of restoring Chechnya, and more importantly, of putting an end to armed violence on this much- suffering land."

The Russian president notes, inter alia, that the implementation of the agreement on the package of military issues, which was signed in Groznyy in the summer to settle the Chechen conflict, "is being hindered due to the furious resistance of the partisans of continuing the war." Terrorist acts against civilians have not stopped, and the explosion in Groznyy city center on 4 December provides the latest proof of that, the address says. "Those who gave an order to carry out this act and those who carried it out have nothing in common with the Chechen people, Islam, or the ancient traditions of mountain peoples," Yeltsin says.

"I shall do everything possible to protect the people from lawlessness and violence, to protect the fragile shoots of peace," it goes on to note in the appeal. "I firmly state my own resolve to stop mercilessly the activity of those for whom war is the meaning of life, a source of profit."

"The work to restore the economy and the social sphere, the public health system and culture, and science and education is not only continuing but will be under my special control," the Russian president notes. "Everything will be done to restore the cultural and economic ties that have been destroyed with regions of Russia and other states," it stresses in the document.

"If calm, stability, and order are to be returned to Chechnya, a lawfully elected authority and joint actions of all those healthy forces in society that are interested in peace are needed," it says in the appeal. The striving of the present leadership of the Chechen Republic to rally the people and unite their efforts for the sake of creative activity deserves support."

"The people should elect to the bodies of power those people they can entrust their fate to, those people who regard the future of the Chechen Republic as their supreme goal," it says in the conclusion of the appeal of the president of Russia. "I believe that the Chechen people will overcome today's ordeals, and happiness and well-being will reign in the land of Chechnya."

Election Official Outlines Arrangements

LD0812215995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — Chechnya will schedule early voting for the Chechen president and the Russian State Duma starting December 15, chief election commissioner Abdul-Kerim Arsakhanov told INTERFAX.

He said the measure was intended to help those who plan to leave the republic before December 17 and who would be unable to vote in rural areas because of intimidation by the separatists.

He said the latter could cast their vote at any place where there is a polling station.

Arsakhanov said the electoral commission was now checking the voters' lists in the countryside. The number of people on the electoral list now runs at 662,300 people and as many as 420,000 polling stations were opened in 310 populated centers.

Groznyy Residents Expect Acts of Terror

LD1012175495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Dec 10 (INTERFAX) — As many as 73 out of the 120 people polled by INTERFAX on Groznyy streets Sunday would like to be as far from the city as possible on the election day.

They explained they expect acts of terror and an upsurge of violence during the elections.

The desire to leave for eight or 10 days to a month was expressed by 31 out of the 73. Most of them intend to leave today or tomorrow because they fear that the roads will be closed or too dangerous.

One half of those who would leave town said they could not do it because they had nowhere to go or could not leave job.

Some said they will send their families away.

On the other hand, 47 out of the 120 said there is no point in leaving the Chechen capital. Some of them said that it will be dangerous everywhere while others believed that the rumors of danger during the election was a myth spread either by separatists who try to disrupt the elections or the Russians who try to frighten the people into voting the way they want.

Servicemen in Chechnya Cast Ballots

LD1112063295 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Servicemen from the Chechnya-based troops who are going on business trips on the eve of the elections cast their ballots in the republic on 10 December for deputies to the Duma. By a decision of Chechnya's Supreme Soviet, the elections of the head of the republic in some inaccessible areas will start on 14 December.

Leningrad Oblast Campaign Surveyed

MM1112114995 VYBORY-95 WWW in Russian 29 Nov 95

[Unattributed report: "Leningrad Oblast" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Publication of material about the candidates in the newspaper VESTI [News] continues. Unfortunately, so far this material is almost the only source of information about the election campaign in Leningrad Oblast for observers, since local publications are hard to obtain.

Several potentially strong candidates can already be identified in District 100 (Kingiseppskiy). First of all, there are three Russian Federation Federal Assembly deputies — Federation Council Deputy Vadim Gustov (independent) and State Duma Deputies Rashid Ismagilov (NDR [Russia Is Our Home]) and Valeriy Kirpichnikov (Rybkin Bloc). They all have experience of running election campaigns (especially Gustov and Kirpichnikov) and have organizational and financial (especially Ismagilov) and administrative (especially Gustov) resources. Although Kirpichnikov and Ismagilov also feature on their electoral blocs' lists (they are number eight on the federal list and number two on the regional list respectively), their winning of a seat on the basis of the federal district will remain in question for a long time yet (maybe until the end of the campaign). So the main battle between them will be in the single-seat district. Out of the three of them, V. Gustov clearly has the greatest administrative resources and access to the mass media; he was recently the hero of the "In Time" talk show on St. Petersburg television. For his part, Kirpichnikov has in his campaign arsenal the fact that he elaborated a number of socially significant laws (for instance, that "On Indexation of the Population's Deposits in the Savings Bank") and is playing the local self-government card (he is a member of the State Duma Local Self-Government Committee).

Let us note that, though he was nominated by the Rybkin bloc, in his piece in the newspaper VESTI Kirpichnikov does not say a word about the bloc or about his membership of it.

A similar effort to distance himself from the electoral association that nominated him was made by Yevgeniy Polyakov (ROD [Russian All-People's Movement]), candidate for Vsevolozhskiy District 99 and hetman of the Leningrad Cossack Assembly, who also omitted to mention his bloc in his piece in VESTI.

Another candidate in that same district (99), Viktor Deninkin, who has also been featured in VESTI, represents the All-Russia Officers Assembly and espouses frankly national-patriotic positions. The official information about his place of work in the list published by the electoral commission gives no idea of this candidate. Until recently he was a serviceman (his last post was as deputy commander of a regiment) and took part in hostilities in Afghanistan and in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. In 1994 he quit the Armed Forces "because of disagreement with the practical elimination of the army in the guise of its democratization."

Another representative of the armed forces — A. Maksimenkov, chief of the Leningrad Military District Engineer Troops — is also running in this district.

Yet another candidate for District 99, State Duma Deputy Yevgeniy Fedorov (Independents Bloc), appeared this week on St. Petersburg TV within the framework of free state airtime, representing his bloc (together with Kirichenko, president of the "Ayaks" holding company, candidate for St. Petersburg District 208). The thrust of their speeches boiled down to an appeal to elect only independent candidates "opposed to the division of society on party grounds." Ye. Fedorov is a young, vigorous candidate who skillfully exploits populist ideas of "independence" from party bias and clearly has financial resources. He may be among the potential leaders of the election campaign in this district.

Interestingly, all three women candidates nominated in Leningrad Oblast are concentrated in District 99.

As for the presentation of material about the candidates in the newspaper VESTI, so far only a few of them are trying to do this in a more or less nontraditional form. Thus Federation Council Deputy Vadim Gustov (District 100) cited just a brief excerpt from his past career (incidentally, not shrinking from but rather making a deliberate point of mentioning his work on the party city committee) and instead of tediously setting out his program featured an appeal in support of his candidacy signed by nine representatives of various strata of the population known in one degree or another to the oblast's residents (including sculptor M. Anikushin, USSR People's Artiste Igor Gorbachev, the chairman of the agro-industrial complex trade unions' oblast committee, an honored citizen of one city in the oblast, a woman student, and scientists). Vyacheslav Ulybin, the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] candidate for District 99, also featured an unorthodox piece — only a short text, with the rest of the space taken up with shots from the LDPR clip, now familiar to TV viewers, about Dusya who dreams of Kutuzov voting for Zhirinovskiy.

Election Guidelines

TsIK Warns Zhirinovskiy To Tone Down Remarks

LD0912212595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1453 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's election address on Russian Public TV on 6 December, has prompted the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] to make representations to the office of the procurator general. A resolution on this was adopted at today's meeting of the commission. In it, the procuracy is asked to investigate whether the address to the voters made by the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] chairman contains the elements of a crime.

The Central Electoral Commission says that in his address on 6 December, the Liberal Democrat leader "uttered remarks in which violence was incited." During his address to the voters, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said, among other things: "If a single shot is fired from an aul [village in North Caucasus, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and other areas], even if one Russian soldier is wounded or killed, I will give the order (if you vote for the LDPR) for this aul to be destroyed! We will destroy five or six auls, we will burn them down with napalm. There will not be any war." These remarks, the commission's resolution says, contravened the rules on election campaigning. There is evidence here, it continues, of illegal campaigning which incites social, racial, ethnic, or religious hatred and animosity.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has been warned that if contraventions of the principles of election campaigning continue, the commission will make representations to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in order to have the LDPR debarred from the election campaign.

TsIK Accuses Media, Parties of Illegality

LD0912232195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — Reports and complaints reaching the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] testify to serious breaches of the rules on election campaigning established by law. This is stated in a resolution adopted by today's meeting of the commission.

The document says that TV and radio companies and publications in the Moscow region (including MTK "Moscow", "Radio Podmoskovye", the newspaper 'TVERSKAYA, 13' and others) are unjustifiably refusing to grant candidates free airtime or space for election advertisements. Similar violations of the rules have also been registered in Kalmykia, Krasnodar, and Khabarovsk territories, and in the Smolensk region. The resolution says that a number of election blocs — Forward, Russia!; Derzhava; Democratic Choice of Russia; the Union of Labour; Russia Is Our Home; and the Congress of Russian Communities — published campaign material which contravened the rules on election campaigning. Furthermore, Democratic Choice of Russia, Derzhava, and Forward, Russia! began campaigning long before the commission registered their federal lists.

"Some officials, against the requirements of the law on elections, are canvassing for or against certain other candidates and blocs." The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission has drawn the attention of Pavel Grachev, Yuriy Luzhkov, and also Vladislav Torosov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Khakassia, and all bodies of power of Russia "to the need for strict compliance with the requirements of federal legislation forbidding them to take part in pre-election canvassing" during execution of their official duties.

By resolution of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the electoral associations are obliged within three days to remove from circulation any electoral materials contravening the requirements of the law on elections. If this is not done, the Central Electoral Commission reserves the right the impose sanctions on them. The bodies of the Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of Internal Affairs are instructed to issue rulings aimed at strengthening supervision and oversight of compliance with federal legislation on elections.

An appeal to fulfill the regulations on pre-election canvassing is addressed by the Central Electoral Commission to the mass news media also.

Forecasts & Commentary

Situation in Single-Seat Districts Examined

MM0812143595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Dec 95 pp 1, 2

[Article by Leonid Smirnyagin, member of the Presidential Council and chief of the Russian Federation President's Analytical Administration Regional Problems Section: "Rising Tide of Interparty Bargaining. Democratic and Centrist Bloc Candidates Could Noticeably Overtake Left-Wingers in Most Single-Seat Districts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are nine days left until the elections, and analysts' attention is increasingly shifting from the federal party lists to single-seat districts. There are several reasons why. The federal lists have been discussed for several months now, but there is still no clarity. The most that analysts have managed to agree upon is the number of blocs which will succeed in clearing the unfortunate 5-percent hurdle (they most frequently speak of between five and eight blocs), but there is not and there will not be any agreement on which blocs will actually do so, probably not until the actual elections; only the Communists are unanimously expected to easily clear this hurdle.

Thus, there is no more news to be gleaned from any further discussion of the federal lists.

On the other hand, a clearer picture is gradually emerging in the single-seat districts. Until quite recently, political scientists in Moscow found this picture completely incomprehensible — it was so fragmented, full of specific details, and dependent on chance. But registration has been completed, time has been found for a thorough analysis of candidates, and it has emerged that obvious favorites can already be identified in all districts. There are two or three of them as rule, and only rarely four. Furthermore, it is already possible to identify more than 100 districts where the election result is almost 100-percent obvious because, in terms of chances of victory, one single candidate is far ahead of the others. This would be either the incumbent deputy who has gained popularity in his district through his activeness and close association with local problems, or a new but already authoritative politician who has been well known for a long time among local residents. It has so happened (at times not by accident) that none of the other candidates has proved to be his equal. And whereas everybody is forecasting that the Communists will come first in the federal lists, the picture in singe-seat districts is very different. The three main left-wing parties plus Zhirinovskiy's party (in other words the so-called radical opposition) will at best win one-third of these 100 "safe" districts, but victory in the other 60 or so districts will evidently go to candidates from the "soft" opposition, from democratic or centrist blocs. It looks as if the left-wing parties will succeed in winning more seats from the federal lists than from single-seat districts.

There are approximately the same number of "uncertain" districts where the outcome of the election struggle is still unclear. They include districts contested by several quite well known candidates, as well as others which have no famous candidates at all.

An interesting and dangerous situation has developed in several districts which may be hit by the "Nevzorov syndrome." As residents of St. Petersburg may well recall, at the last elections Nevzorov won in a highly democratic district, where he had virtually no chance, only because the seven democratic candidates split the entire democratic vote between themselves and Nevzorov won by a majority of a few thousand votes. Now Aleksandr [Nevzorov] has decided not to tempt fate and has left St. Petersburg for the Pskov countryside....

This story could be repeated in several places this year. It became obvious even back in October that parties with similar programs had slipped up very badly in coordinating the nomination of their candidates, constantly clashing with one another in trying to woo the same groups of voters. This really embittered the democrats, especially Gaydar's supporters, because they suspected a collusion between the left-wing parties — they were apparently accustomed to party discipline.... Come on — the Russia-wide disorder has proved stronger than the bolshevik traditions, and the left-wing parties overlap by at least one-third (in other words, their candidates will have to contest the election with candidates from another two or even three of these parties in one-third of the districts where they are running).

Consequently, today it is easy to find districts which are contested by two or even four quite well known democrats or left-wingers, with the candidate of the diametrically opposed bloc still in the background, biding his time until his main opponents split their total vote in pieces. Such a situation is quite correctly described as dangerous since it offers a distorted picture of the voters' intentions: The majority of them will end up unrepresented only because their vote was split between several candidates of identical hues.

There are hopes that this danger will ultimately force the main blocs to embark on what almost all of them had rejected until recently — consolidation of the forces of kindred blocs. Perhaps this is exactly the time to undertake such consolidation. After all, a month of two ago any politician could have nurtured all kind of fantasies about his popularity. But now it is only a matter of days until the elections, and many of them have realized quite clearly that they have virtually no chance of being elected. After all, the task of a healthy runner in the election race is not to win just a "respectable" number of votes but to win the maximum possible number of votes, since coming in second does not give a seat in the State Duma. True enough, there are few candidates who are contesting this year's elections not to gain victory but in order to "gain a foothold" and become known, and later on to take advantage of this newly-acquired fame and contest elections to the local or regional parliament. There are also some who are simply keen on running in the election race; there are also some not quite normal people; there are even some altogether unenviable characters who pretend to be someone else.

For example, the President's Analytical Administration where I work was shocked to discover in the lists of candidates from one of Stavropol Kray's districts someone by the name of Polyakov, who claims to be employed by...the President's Analytical Service; in actual fact we have never employed anyone by this name.

But the overwhelming majority of candidates have joined the election race in pursuit of a single goal — victory. Today many of them have realized that they will not succeed. A considerable proportion of them would probably prefer to withdraw their candidacy so as not to waste their time. Such a step is still seen as a highly respectable deed in our country, as a sign of common sense, especially if it is accompanied by a statement that the candidate is withdrawing in someone else's favor.

It looks as if the country will be overrun by a tide of interparty bartering and deals in the very near future. Kindred parties will start withdrawing their candidates in each other's favor in the expectation that a concession to the "comrade in arms" in one district will prompt a concession by the "comrade in arms" in another district. This process could only be welcomed: The lists of candidates will become shorter, things will become easier for voters, and there will be less likelihood that minority candidates will win. True enough, the number of candidates with common sense may prove to be too small to be described as a "tide", and even the actual process of coordinating actions is too delicate to be completed within a matter of days. One way or another, the process of consolidation may be too late.

It would be a pity. Our politicians are missing a chance to justify themselves before the future historians of the "Yeltsin era" who will inevitably describe this year's elections as a convulsion of ambition and irresponsibility — and they will be largely right.

Zhirinovskiy Criticizes NATO, U.S., CIS, West

LD1012184695 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1920 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] I would like to introduce our next interlocutor, so to speak — Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy. Here is his opinion.

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, LDPR] What does the LDPR want? What will it definitely do? We will liquidate all national republics. We will only have a territorial division: guberniyas [province in Russia before the revolution], regions and territories. Or let us have republics and then everything will become a republic, there will be 89 republics: Ryazan republic, Moscow republic, Magadan republic, Tatar republic, and so on and so forth. But the way we have it now is not logical. It is provoking discord and chauvinism. You can see for yourselves what happened in Yugoslavia: Hundreds of thousands of dead bodies and hundreds of thousands of refugees. We have as many dead bodies here, even though nobody is bombing us.

There is only one reason why NATO and the United States are not bombing us: They are afraid of us. They have a desire to do so, they have an old desire to eliminate Russia as a competitor.

The purpose of all perestroykas, all revolutions, and all wars is to seize somebody else's resources, to seize somebody else's territories because the main resources lie underground: Oil, gas, timber, ore, precious metals, gold, and so on and so forth.

There have been world wars throughout the 20th century. You remember well the first and the second and you know how they ended. A secret, clandestine war against Russia is under way now.

Now, the cause of the Chechen crisis is as follows. First, the Moscow bureaucrats needed it to launder dirty money from selling weapons, drugs, and oil, in other words for them it was a source of enriching themselves on a territory allegedly not controlled by the central government, allegedly there is an independent state there.

Second, and this is a more global reason, it was an attempt to provoke a large-scale civil war in the country: Through Chechnya to drag the whole of the Caucasus into war so that it could spread to purely Russian regions, at least in the south. This civil war would have helped to speed up the destruction of our economy, of our state and, as a final result, of our population.

The first was successful: Many people have enriched themselves. The second is not succeeding: They still cannot kindle civil war in our country.

The third reason is connected with the outside world: To provoke a deterioration of relations between the Orthodox Russia and the Muslim world. In this case the West would be a winner: Russia and the Islam world would become weaker and the West, once again, would receive yet another source of enriching itself. They have pumped out everything from Africa, Latin America, and Asia and only virgin Russia, where they can still pump something out, remains. These are the reasons.

Finally, the last cause of the Chechen crisis is to have an excuse to disrupt the elections. How can one disrupt the elections? One can introduce a state of emergency in the country. What is needed for this? To show thousands of dead bodies. Just send a couple of Basayevs [Shamil Basayev, Chechen opposition] to several towns in southern Russia, they would organize a massacre there, then to show all this to you on television and you yourselves would say that urgent measures must be taken. Then, answering the wishes of the working people, the Moscow bureaucrats, these fat-cat rotten bureaucrats who have their hands in the till and who do not want either democracy or the elections, would introduce with great pleasure a state of emergency in the country and cancel the elections. This is the cause of the Chechen war. This is why your children are dying there: They are dying there so that the Moscow political kitchen keeps on boiling.

There are several forces there: The president's team, the central government's team, the Moscow government's team, the State Duma's team, and a number of other teams.

Who do you think is in charge of military operations in Chechnya at present? The Americans. The FBI branch in Moscow allegedly set up to help us combat banditry mainly consists of CIA agents who are providing aid to Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime in carrying out military operations. He learns about any orders from our command before anybody else and takes necessary measures. Therefore our troops are pouring out their life-blood. The fifth column — some deputy defense and interior ministers, the Federal Security Service is helping in this too. Therefore, our boys are dying there. The Chechen war is artificial and it will go on unless the political crisis is resolved there.

What team will be in power? If it is the same team that in the past won stealthily at night, using the Central Clinical Hospital or another option, it will stop the war in Chechnya just to rehabilitate themselves and to show that they are peacemakers. Look, they can give a bus to the bandits so that the latter could have some rest in the mountain villages before they renew their raids on Russian towns.

All this already happened a thousand years ago when we were fighting against the Pechenegs [Turk tribes in the Volga region that were raiding Russian eastern and southern regions in 8th-10th centuries], the Scythians [ancient nomadic tribe that lived on the Black Sea between 7th century BC and 3d century AD], the Khazars [Turk nomads that first appeared in Eastern Europe in 4th century], the Polovtsians [Turk people that lived in Russian southern steppes in 11th century and made numerous raids inside Russia] — the same Turk peoples, the Caucasian peoples that were torturing Russia from the south. The Russian tsar resolved the problem but the Bolsheviks' revolution and the civil war broke down the existing structure and created a new structure, the USSR. The USSR also collapsed and now, finally, there is the CIS, which is a real disgrace. It is really sickening because we are feeding those who are spitting in our face.

The LDPR thinks that is necessary to immediately stop all aid and then 30 percent of our resources would stay in the country.

Finally, what is the difference between the LDPR and all the other parties? We are against restoring the USSR and we are against the CIS. We are for a Russian republic. But we want all the territories willing to do so now to return to it voluntarily: Tajikistan, north Kazakhstan, part of Kyrgyzstan, the Dniester region, Abkhazia, Belarus, east and south Ukraine, and part of the Baltics.

On the other hand, the LDPR is against the Transcaucasus being part of a future Russia. Even if they beg for it, they should not be accepted. Because all debauchery, brigandage, swindling, corruption — all this filth — have come to Russia from the south, from the Transcaucasus, from the North Caucasus. It is not a matter of nationality and those who are living in the region should not be offended. This is a question of the south and the north. There are bandits among the Russians there too. Therefore we are not talking of nationality here.

Our party is an ardent opponent of any discrimination on the basis of nationality, moreover on the basis of religion. But let us not be mealy-mouthed: Throughout the 20th century the Russians have been the most humiliated, the most insulted, and their rights trampled upon. Therefore, I am saying that we must save our nation, the Russians, and at the same time the small peoples that have been living together with us for centuries, for thousands of years — mainly the Finno-Ugric, Udmurts, Maris, Karelians, Khanty, and the

Turkic-speaking peoples — Tatars, Bashkirs, Chuvashs, and others. In other words, we have been living together for thousands of years here and we should not be separated. But the democrats used this national weapon to break down the USSR and, when the state broke down, the economy and culture followed. For the sake of propaganda they are now getting involved in slandering. You are weary of this and you want changes. But the LDPR is the only party that can and will make changes. [end recording]

Correction to IZVESTIYA Poll Analysis Figures

MM0812141195

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Polls Show Chance of 'Left-Wing' Majority," published in the 4 December Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 13:

Table 1. The proportion of seats obtained in the Duma by parties clearing the 5-percent hurdle (compared with the figures obtained six weeks ago and published in IZVESTIYA No. 199, 20 October 1995:

Name of Party	Predicted range of distribution of seats (as percentage)	Corresponding forecast in October (as percentage)
Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF]	31-28	33-22
Yabloko	15-16	12-13
Russia Is Our Home [NDR]	14	14-16
Congress of Russian Communities [KRO]	11-13	10-12
Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]	8-10	9-10
Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats	7-8	6
Party of Working People's Self-Government [PST]	8	10-12
Women of Russia	0-9	0-9
Agrarian Party of Russia [APR]	0	0-6

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Dec

LD1012093095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0550 GMT 10 Dec 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Today's Russian newspapers concentrate on the coming elections to the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) to be held on December 17. Prominent sociologist Yuriy Levada estimates prospects of Communists in the IZVESTIYA newspaper.

"According to data of all polls and estimates of independent analysts, Communists may win 15 percent of the electorate and to receive between 25 and 30 percent seats "by party lists" in the Duma (together with the Russian Agrarian Party if it clears the five-percent barrier), depending on the distribution of vacant seats," the sociologist claims.

The daily carries interviews with Colonel-General Boris Gromov, leader of the My Fatherland election bloc, as well as leader of the Women of Russia parliamentary group Yekaterina Lakhova and chairman of the Russian ecological party Cedar Anatoliy Panfilov.

Speaker of the Federation Council (upper chamber) Vladimir Shumeyko shares plans about his future in an interview with IZVESTIYA. The newspaper notes that, after the Russian president put an end to a protracted dispute on principles of forming the Russian senate, "Vladimir Shumeyko's future looks very dim".

According to the speaker, he intends to get busy with organising the Reforms — New Course movement. Shumeyko hopes that, following a founding conference of the movement, he will be elected to its governing bodies.

"The movement as a non-government organisation functions with contributions from co-founders. These contributions will be possibly enough for my salary," he joked.

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper features a letter by President Boris Yeltsin to members of the Federation Council of the Russian parliament.

"The work of the Federal Assembly, the first parliament of the Russian Federation, is nearing completion. The establishment and tuning up of its operations were an important achievement to translate into life the provisions of the new Constitution of the Russian Federation," the letter says.

The same daily runs an article by head of the Russian president's office Sergey Filatov, devoted to December 12, Constitution Day.

According to a statement by chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court Vladimir Tumanov, which is quoted by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, "the Constitution ensures the freedom of economic development, the freedom of choice of labour and the freedom of ownership.

"The Constitution ensures the political freedom and full freedom, which is corroborated most of all by the fact that its antagonists are most active in appraising the Fundamental Law," the chairman stresses.

The trade union newspaper TRUD front-pages an article by member of the State Duma Vladimir Lysenko, timed to coincide with the anniversary since the start of combat operations in Chechnya.

The daily quotes official data, according to which the armed forces alone lost 1,928 as dead and 5,487 as wounded.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper devotes a special issue to the anniversary since the start of combat operations in Chechnya.

In the opinion of Colonel-General Valeriy Mironov, former deputy defence minister, whose interview the daily publishes, "the first stage of the Chechen operation was conducted extremely incompetently even from the viewpoint of command".

The army newspaper marks the anniversary with a photo display "Chechnya: a year of trials and tribulations".

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper runs an article on Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov. In the newspaper's opinion, "his star only starts rising".

Kozyrev Asks West To Drop Charges Against Serb Leaders

LD1012152395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1441 GMT 10 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 10 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — In accordance with the wishes of the Bosnian Serb leadership, Russia has asked the international tribunal on former Yugoslavia in the Hague to suspend legal proceedings against Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev informed journalists of this here today, prior to his departure for Moscow.

Moscow has called on the Hague tribunal "to re-examine this problem in a more comprehensive and balanced way, taking into account all the facts," he said. He was commenting on the intention of a number of West European states to make Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Serb forces commander Ratko Mladic face trial for war crimes.

Referring in this connection to demands from Paris and Moscow that Belgrade and the Bosnian Serb leadership clarify the fate of the French pilots shot down over Bosnia, the Russian foreign minister noted that the Serbs must move to satisfy the French and Russian demands, otherwise they could "find themselves in international isolation." "Russia and France are the two countries which are historically the most close to the Serbs," he recalled.

"I believe the Serb leaders have sufficient reason to disclose the fate of the pilots," Andrey Kozyrev stressed. "If the pilots are alive, then I urgently advise that they be returned immediately to the French side."

Yeltsin Asks Milosevic About French Pilots' Fate

LD0912155295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1442 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — In a move to help solve the humanitarian problem of the two French pilots whose plane was brought down in Bosnia, President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has directly asked Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic about their fate, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Russian correspondents here today.

According to Kozyrev, during talks which were conducted as part of the international conference of Bosnia, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said that, if in the next two days Paris did not receive information from the Serbs on the pilots — whether they are dead or alive — Paris might demand that the UN Security Council should renew sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"I asked him why France threatened sanctions against Belgrade if the pilots had perished over the territory of the Bosnian Serbs. Herve de Charette said the Bosnian Serbs' leaders are constantly in touch with Belgraden and visit the Yugoslav capital several times a week," Kozyrev said.

Chernomyrdin To Head to Accord-Signing Delegation

LD0912143295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will head the Russian delegation for the signing ceremony of the Bosnia peace agreements in Paris on December 14, President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman Sergey Medvedev told ITAR-TASS.

According to the spokesman, during the telephone conversation on Saturday, Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin discussed Russia's stands towards the agreements.

Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin also discussed the course of the election campaign in Russia, including measures being taken in the Chechen republic ahead of the elections.

The two leaders expressed the hope that the upper house of Russian parliament would approve the 1996 federal budget, already passed by the Duma, before the end of 1995, and that Russia would start the new calendar year with an approved budget plan, the spokesman said.

Chernomyrdin informed Yeltsin about measures already taken to pay out old-age pensions and finance the defence sector and the power ministries, according to the spokesman.

Yeltsin is currently recuperating from heart trouble in the Barvikha Moscow suburban sanatorium.

Kozyrev Upbeat on London Bosnia Conference

LD1012182895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1229 GMT 10 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 10 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — The Bosnian settlement is a hard and painful process. This opinion was voiced in a talk with Russian journalists by Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev. He was taking part in the work of the two-day international conference on implementation of the peace programs in Bosnia, which ended here on Saturday. Today the head of Russian diplomacy flew from London to Moscow.

"I must note with a sense of satisfaction that we managed, together with the Europeans, to ensure a balanced conduct of the operations of the international community in Bosnia," Andrey Kozyrev said, summing up the London forum.

"Specifically, I reached agreement with Carl Bildt, the coordinator of the civilian operation, that Russian diplomats will be included in his mission."

He said that at the conference enormous work had been done. "Russian interests have been taken into account significantly — by 70-80 percent," the minister announced. "Not one state or organization, including the European Union, has more than 70 percent of its interests taken into account."

In the opinion of Kozyrev, the work at the forum developed in the direction of working out a balanced international approach to a settlement of the crisis in former Yugoslavia "with the active role of the Russian Federation today and in the future."

"We are establishing a mechanism of active Russian participation in the further processes of a political settlement and civilian operation in Bosnia," Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

At the same time, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry cautioned against moods of euphoria and ideas that all Bosnian issues are resolved.

"Now it is necessary, with the support of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], to set up in the republic democratic institutions of power, to prepare and hold free elections," he stressed.

As the ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from diplomatic sources, on Tuesday Andrey Kozyrev leaves for Paris, where he will take part in the Paris conference at which the peace agreements on a settlement in Bosnia will be signed.

Churkin Interviewed on Brussels Meetings, Bosnia

MK0912102895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Dec 95 p 9

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, Russian ambassador to Belgium and NATO, by Oleg Bergazov; in Brussels, date not given: "Yugoslav Conflict Undermines Moral Foundations of Civilized Society"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Bergazov] Mr. Ambassador, what were the distinctive features of the NATO defense ministers' latest meeting? How do you evaluate the Russian defense minister's participation in it?

[Churkin] The meeting of the NATO Military Planning Committee is an annual gathering of defense ministers, a regular meeting that did not produce anything extraordinary. NATO is now busy preparing for the Bosnian operation. I think that this frame of mind of NATO will remain unchanged in the foreseeable future. This will undoubtedly be the main problem worrying NATO countries and their leaders. The key event that largely eclipsed the discussion was the arrival of the Russian defense minister — this was an extraordinary event in many respects. First, it was the Russian defense minister's second meeting with his NATO counterparts. The first meeting was held two years ago, when the Russian minister briefed them on the Russian military doctrine. This time he detailed our European security concept and summed up the talks he had held with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry regarding problems of the Russian contingent's participation in the Bosnian peacekeeping operation. In addition, the fourth meeting in the past few weeks with the U.S. defense secretary was held, at which they continued devising the mechanism for possible cooperation between Russia and NATO in Bosnia. There was yet another unprecedented meeting — I do not know whether sufficient attention was paid to it. NATO countries have the following format: Defense ministers of European countries hold meetings twice a year without their U.S. and Canadian counterparts. By the way, the French formerly did not participate in it either. So this time the Russian defense minister was invited to attend it. Since the Russian minister was invited, the American and the Canadian had to be invited as well; a French representative was also present for the first time, even though it was an ambassador, not the defense minister. This is how, as the participants were joking, yet another format — 14 plus three or, maybe, even 13 plus four — came about. So as you see, a new channel of communication emerged. This meeting, too, centered primarily on the future of the Bosnian peacekeeping operation, but also on the transformation of the North Atlantic Alliance. Our minister was told what has changed in NATO's military structures and approaches over the past several years. So, in sum, the defense minister's Brussels visit was proof of yet more interesting developments in our uneasy but, I hope, progressively advancing relations with the North Atlantic Alliance.

[Bergazov] Representatives of NATO countries and the Russian defense minister have repeatedly spoken about the need to avoid a repetition of the Berlin scenario, that is, the carving up of territory into separate sectors in which peacekeeping or other functions will be performed by one single country or another. Does it not seem to you that something similar may come about in Bosnia, because NATO and Russia have retained their military and political authority with regard to their contingents and their, so to speak, zones?

[Churkin] I think that this will not and must not occur. A guarantee of that is the formula of joint actions, in which emphasis is placed on togetherness, not separateness. The need for a single command was reaffirmed, but a structure was created under which the sides retain a certain level of autonomy. As you know, General Joulwan [NATO commander in Europe] will be in command of the operation. He will have a deputy in charge of Russian troops, General Shevtsov, and all orders to the Russian contingent will be relayed via General Shevtsov. Our brigade will closely cooperate with the American division, which will take over a sector along the demarcation line between the warring sides. It is planned to set up a total of three such sectors: the U.S. division, the British division, and the French division.

[Bergazov] If problems arise, will the Russian contingent be able to act in violation of NATO Council decisions in its deployment zones?

[Churkin] We will retain full national political control over our contingent. Yet, let us not speak about a negative, extraordinary turn of events. Our peacekeepers have long been acting in cooperation with contingents of NATO countries, even if those were under the United Nations, not NATO, command. After all, let us not forget that, say, French soldiers in UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] are the same soldiers of NATO countries, even though there are some peculiarities in France's relationship with NATO structures. In Eastern Slavonia, for instance, we cooperate with a Belgian battalion. This is also a NATO country. At one time a Russian general was in command of the "East" sector in Eastern Slavonia; now there is a Belgian general in charge, but no problems have occurred. In my view, it is the common interest in having the Bosnian conflict resolved that should dominate. It is simply impossible to watch the bloodshed continue any longer. I probably need not describe to you yet another time the entire drama of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But these dramatics emphasize that we should resolutely join forces and act together. Then we will be able to succeed. When Pavel Grachev arrived here last time, a colorful poster was shown to him. Americans are very good at drawing such colorful diagrams. So the first poster that was shown to General Grachev when preparations for the Bosnian operation were under discussion read as follows: "NATO+Russia=Success." This is the mood with which we should embark on the Bosnian operation. [passage omitted]

[Bergazov] Do you think that NATO has always been impartial toward the participants in the Bosnian conflict, and what new guarantees of impartiality can there be on the part of both NATO and the multinational armed forces in general as they start a new stage of the Bosnian operation?

[Churkin] Regarding the first question: Of course not. Of course, impartiality has not always been there. Generally speaking, I would like to say that the Bosnian drama, I am certain, will be a matter of the most serious reflection for politicians, historians, and diplomats, because lots of mistakes have been made. Lots of steps have been taken that only aggravated the conflict situation. So there can be no talk of NATO, U.S., or European impartiality.

In my judgment, impartiality should become a matter not only of political analysis, but also of inner, moral ruminations, if you wish. If civilized states react to the horrors committed by one side but, owing to their political or other sympathies, do not pay due attention to what the other side is doing, not only do they compound the situation in the conflict area, but by so doing they erode their moral and ethical core, the fundamental basis of a civilized society. [passage omitted]

This is yet another reason for ending this conflict as soon as possible: It undermines not only European security, but also the foundations of European civilization, of which Russia is a part. Impartiality and a balanced stance are very important, and we are constantly talking with NATO about them. Our participation in the Bosnian operation is first of all designed to promote a balanced stance. In addition, I would like to remind you that the Dayton accords themselves say explicitly that the multinational forces are to be unbiased toward all sides and all violators of the agreement, should there be such. But, of course, we ought to make sure that this is so in reality.

Duma Sees 'Drawbacks' in Dayton Agreement

LD0812195595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 8 (ITAR-TASS) — The Dayton agreements involve drawbacks which may hamper further progress in solving the Balkan crisis by peaceful means, the Russian State Duma said in a statement on Friday.

Nevertheless, the Duma is satisfied with the completion of work on the agreements concerning a comprehensive political settlement of the Balkan crisis. Considerable work was done in Dayton to make the positions closer and to find a mutually agreed compromise, according to the statement.

However, "despite Russia's demands, the issue of lifting sanctions from the Union Republic of Yugoslavia was left unsolved," the statement said. Instead of being lifted, the sanction were only suspended, which means that they may be automatically reimposed, according to the statement.

"It is obvious that the Union [as received] Republic of Yugoslavia, a state which is making a great effort to find a peaceful settlement to the Bosnia crisis, is being treated unjustly," Russian law-makers consider.

The sanction suspension procedure, as stated in the agreements, excludes the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, from decision making. In other words, "it proved impossible to rectify a grave mistake, which was earlier committed by Russian diplomats and which deprived our country from the possibility to exert effective influence on the Balkan developments through the Security Council," according to the statement.

"As a result, the Dayton agreements envisage attaching unprecedented importance to NATO's role in the Balkans, alongside with a limited and vague participation of Russia," the statement said.

Another erroneous decision, in the view of Russian MPs, is to link the issue of lifting sanctions from the Union Republic of Yugoslavia with lifting the Bosnia and Herzegovina arms embargo.

'One-Sided Demarch' Against Serbs Objected to at UN

LD0912144795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — A draft resolution condemning the violations of human rights by Bosnia Serbs in the area of Srebenica, Zepa, and Banja-Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was tabled by a group of countries at the U.N. Security Council on Friday. In reply to this one-sided demarche, the Russian delegation to the Security Council has tabled its own resolution, which clearly stresses the impermissibility of any violations of the international humanitarian law and of human rights in the former Yugoslavia, irrespective of who commits them.

The draft imperatively calls on all the sides — Serbs, Moslems, and Croats — to unswervingly fulfil their commitments on this score. The Russian delegation believes that such an impartial and objective reaction of the Security Council to the violations of the international humanitarian law will really contribute to a lasting peace in the region, which is particularly important now at the final stage of the preparations for the signing of peace agreements on Bosnia.

Cruiser *Kuznetsov* To Support Balkan Deployment

LD0912103395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — The air-capable cruiser of the Russian Northern Fleet *Admiral Kuznetsov* will sail to the Mediterranean to participate in the deployment of the multinational forces in the Balkans, the press centre of the Russian Navy reported. The exact date of the cruiser's putting to sea was not disclosed, but ITAR-TASS learned on Friday that the cruiser was to leave for the Mediterranean shortly.

The cruiser can carry on board upto 80 Sukhoy fighter aircraft and upto ten Kamov helicopter gunships, according to the information of ITAR-TASS military desk. After the cruiser sails for the Mideterranean, the press centre of the Russian Navy will report additionally what aircraft it is carrying.

The cruiser's run from the Arctic to its temporary base on the coast of former Yugoslavia will take less than ten days. The cruiser will be accompanied by auxiliary vessels on the Northern and Black Sea Fleets.

In the operation for the deployment of multinational peacekeeping forces in the Balkans, the nuclear-powered cruiser *Admiral Kuznetsov*

- will be interacting with aircraft carriers of the United States, Great Britain and France, as well as with other ships in the NATO operation code-named Wild Horse. The Russian cruiser will stay in the Mediterranean for one hundred days.

Embassy Protests Japan's Withdrawal of Kurils Maps

LD0812140595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Vladimir Solntsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, December 8 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Embassy in Japan presented a note to official Tokyo in relation to removal of 18th-19th century maps designating South Kuril Islands as Russia's territory from exhibits of an exposition which was held in Tokyo on November 15-30.

Informed Russian sources told ITAR-TASS that the embassy's note reaffirms Russia's stance on the ownership of the islands claimed by Japan and protests "the unacceptable bringing of political motives into the purely scientific undertaking by the Japanese side".

The exposition was jointly staged by the Russian State Library and the Japanese Parliamentary Library.

Media reports say a group of Japanese parliamentarians visited the exposition prior to its opening, found out that the Russian maps defined the Kurils as a group of islands including Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and Habomai.

Japan ceded the four islands to Russia under the San Francisco peace pact of 1951. However, official Tokyo's stance developed in later years has been that the geographic definition of the Kuriles does not cover the four islands.

Media reports said officials of the parliamentary library withdrew the maps at the last moment after consultations with the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

A Russian Embassy representative pointed out during his visit to the Japanese Foreign Ministry that if the reports are true, Russia "cannot accept these acts".

Sources in the Japanese Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS that the decision to drop the maps from the exposition was made by the Parliamentary Library which belongs to the legislative branch. Therefore, the executive, or the government, may not impose its decisions on the library, the sources said.

Admitting that the Foreign Ministry was the sponsor of the exposition and "advised" the library about the maps, the sources refused to say when the ministry did so.

A spokeswoman for the Parliamentary Library told ITAR-TASS that her superiors had forbid her to give any clarifications on the matter by telephone.

Reportage, Commentary on Remarks by U.S. Envoy Pickering

Moscow May Urge U.S. To Recall Pickering

LD0912113495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 9 (INTERFAX) — Moscow may urge Washington to recall U.S. ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering, a high-ranking staffer of the Russian Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX Saturday. Pickering's statements in favor of transferring the South Kuril islands to Japan "are inadmissible or, to call a spade a spade, an outrageous escapade," said the diplomat. "These statements should be viewed together with recent press articles by American diplomats — staffers of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, on internal Russian affairs," he noted. The diplomat described these incidents as a violation of the ethical rules of behavior to be observed by staffers of foreign embassies. If they do not observe them, the violators go home ahead of time, said the diplomat. He did not exclude high-level appeal in the very near future to the U.S. administration and heads of the State Department. "The essence of this appeal is that either the professional level of U.S. diplomats working in Moscow should be upgraded or the whole personnel policy should be radically revised," stressed the high-ranking representative of the Foreign

Further Reaction to Remarks on Kurils

MK1012105995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Gornostayev: "American Ambassador Could Be Recalled. For Second Time in Three Weeks, Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Lodges Protest With U.S. Embassy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reaction of Russian diplomats to the recent statement by Thomas Pickering, the United States' ambassador to the Russian Federation, to the effect that the southern islands of the Kuril chain are Japanese territory was immediate. Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated with regard to Pickering's utterances that this is none of his — that is, Pickering's — business. An official protest was lodged with the minister counselor of the American Embassy, who was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry in connection with the utterances of Pickering, who "took the liberty, in the course of his tour of the Far East, to publicly 'agitate' in favor of turning over to Japan the southern islands of the Kuril chain."

The Russian foreign policy department assessed these words as "unacceptable interference in our internal affairs and in our bilateral relations with a third state." Moreover, Pickering's statement contradicts the accepted ethics of conduct of foreign representatives in the host country.

On the whole, observed Mikhail Demurin, first deputy director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, such a stance does not well correspond to the United States' leadership's officially declared course of partnership with Russia.

On the other hand, it is well known that in their talks with the Japanese, the Americans voice their support for Tokyo on the Kuril Islands question. Generally, this view is Washington's official position, which, it is true, has not often been aired so publicly before this.

It is hard to speak with confidence of the reasons for the appearance of such words. One theory was advanced by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma International Affairs Committee. He stated: "Of course, the United States' complex relationship with Japan is a factor of American policy, but why solve bilateral American-Japanese problems at the expense of another partner, and shortly before the parliamentary elections in Russia at that?" This version should not be fully dismissed. However, in talking with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, an expert said that there is hardly any basis for the theory that Washington is improving its relations with Tokyo at the expense of relations with Moscow.

Incidentally, a number of foreign, including American, media are noting that this incident is the second in the last three weeks in which an official protest has been lodged with the American Embassy. In the first instance, diplomats from the United States were called to account for an article by Thomas Graham, first secretary of the [U.S.] Embassy in Moscow, on the political situation inside Russia, which was carried by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

Yesterday, a high-ranking diplomat told INTERFAX that the Russian side could raise the issue of having U.S. Ambassador Pickering recalled from Moscow. Ministry.

Seen as Bid To Ingratiate U.S. With Japan

MM0912180395 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 95 p 1

[Article by Yelena Ovcharenko: "Is American Ambassador Pickering Putting on a Show for Tokyo?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering engaged in something which is not his business? The U.S. State Department does not think so. Spokesman Nicholas Burns, commenting on the statement made by the ambassador in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on Friday that "priority in the South Kurils belongs to Japan," said: "This view has been the U.S. 'position' for the duration of many administrations."

Minister Kozyrev, who is in London, stated his attitude equally toughly. He stated that the question of who the South Kurils belongs to "is not the business of the U.S. ambassador in Moscow but is the subject of negotiations between Russia and Japan."

This is not the first time recently that the Russian Foreign Ministry has had to upbraid American diplomatic personnel in Moscow. And now we have a new instance of tactlessness, which is inadmissible from the viewpoint of world diplomatic practice. Thomas Pickering is an experienced ambassador who does not commit blunders. More likely America is trying to use him to please Tokyo, with which Washington's relations are not brilliant right now.

As I was told by high-ranking Russian Federation Foreign Ministry staffers, they do not rule out the possibility that the remarks will result in tough messages directly to the U.S. Administration. And they described this very fact as "shocking" [bezobraznyy].

Kozyrev: Problem 'Not For Third Countries'

LD1012141295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1301 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 10 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — The question of the South Kurils is a problem which is not for third countries and the U.S. ambassador to Russia, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists here today before leaving by air for Moscow.

"The South Kurils is a question of bilateral relations which is being settled on the basis of the Tokyo declaration [1951 Allied-Japan treaty in which Japan renounced all rights to Kurils and South Sakhalin], signed at summit level," he pointed out, commenting on the recent utterance by Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to Russia, that "Japan has priority with regard to the South Kurils".

"I do not think that such statements, which do not pertain to the subject and only cause unnecessary fuss, should enter into our partnership relations with the United States, the adherence to which was confirmed during my recent meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher."

"We are holding a dialogue with the U.S. side through diplomatic channels and have already expressed our opinion," the head of Russian diplomacy stressed. "I hope that a lesson will be learned from this incident and the issue will be settled."

Karasin on Pickering's Statement

LD0912193695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1900 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Foreign Ministry hopes the American side will take "very seriously" the reaction which was caused by the statements of U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering concerning southern islands of the Kuril chain, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told ITAR-TASS on Saturday [9 December].

At present, Moscow and Washington are conducting an "intensive dialogue through diplomatic channels in connection with this incident," Karasin said.

During the tour of the Russian Far East, the U.S. ambassador took the liberty of publicly speaking for handing over southern islands of the Kuril chain to Japan.

The demarches made by Moscow after Pickering's statements "do not mean now a demand to replace the American ambassador," Karasin said.

On Friday, the minister-counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was invited to the Russian Foreign Ministry where a official protest was launched to him. The American side was told that Russia regarded the U.S. ambassador's statements "as an unacceptable intervention" in Russia's internal affairs and its bilateral relations with a third state.

Pickering's statement also runs counter to generally accepted ethics of the conduct of foreign diplomatic representatives in a host country. It is well-known that foreign diplomats make trips in a host country in order to better familiarise themselves with it and make a contribution to the development of this country's relations with their own states but not to aggravate these ties.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev made a corresponding statement to ITAR-TASS stressing that the problem of the belonging of the Southern Kurils "is no concern of the U.S. ambassador to Moscow but is a matter of talks between Russia and Japan."

Duma's Lukin on Pickering's Statement

LD0912155195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1532 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs Vladimir Lukin told ITAR-TASS today that the latest statements by the American Embassy and State Department on the South Kurils issue was "one more attempt to internationalise a bilateral problem, which is simply inappropriate on the part of the United States."

A representative of the State Department said on Friday that American Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering had made a very clear-cut statement that the northern territories should be returned to Japan.

"This is the same as if we were to interfere in the U.S. dispute over its Micronesian territories or over Puerto Rico's sovereignty," Lukin said. He noted that the South Kurils problem should be settled on a bilateral basis, referring in this connection to several documents, including the Tokyo declaration, signed by the Russian president and the Japanese premier. "We shall calmly adhere to this bilateral course of improving our relations and signing a peace treaty," he stressed.

"I am simply dumbfounded by lack of elementary tact on the part of the State Department. It was not enough for them to make statements in Washington and they have voiced them through their embassy in Russia, which is even more inappropriate: the American embassy has nothing to do with this problem and should not meddle with it," Lukin added.

The chairman of the Duma Committee drew attention to the timing of the American statements. "Of course, America's far from simple relations with Japan are a factor of American policy, but why settle bilateral American-Japanese problems at the expense of another partner, and, the more so, on the eve of our parliamentary elections?," he inquired.

"One gets the impression that there is an association within the State Department, which supports the Russian communists and chauvinists. Maybe the CIA and FBI should unmask this company," the MP said. "If this is a case of elementary stupidness, the diplomacy of such a great country should be cured of this ailment," he stressed. The United States to recall this formula more frequently," he added. [sentence as received]

Pickering's Remarks Seen as 'Interference'

LD0912210495 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian
1800 GMT 9 Dec 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry today made a submission to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in connection with the statement by Thomas Pickering, the latter country's ambassador, that precedence in the territorial dispute over the South Kuril Islands should supposedly be given to Japan, this statement made by him while on a tour of Russia's Far East. Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign affairs minister, comments on this statement by the ambassador at our request:

[Begin Ivanov recording] I would like to make two points in connection with these statements by the U.S. ambassador, formally and in terms of professional ethics. The fact of the matter is that we predicate our approach to the territorial problem with Japan on the well-known Tokyo declaration and other documents signed in the course of Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's official visit to Japan in October 1993. With regard to this, we proceed from the fact that all issues of Russian-Japanese bilateral relations, including the territorial question, should be solved with account taken of the national interests of Russia and the constitution of our state, and on the basis of international law.

I would also like to point out that we do not need any mediation or any advice. I think that our two states will be intelligent enough to find a solution to these extraordinarily complex matters constructively, on the basis of a dialogue and without dramatizing the situation.

As regards professional ethics, the U.S. ambassador's statement, to put it mildly, can only give rise to consternation. We are professional diplomats and are aware that the role of any ambassador and any diplomatic representative is that of promoting the development of bilateral relations, rather than creating problems. We cannot, however, regard this statement by the ambassador as anything other than interference in our state's internal affairs and relations with another state. [end recording]

Pickering's Remarks on Kurils Scored

MM1112110695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "War Not Yet Over for Moscow and Tokyo, One Japanese Minister Said"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — When asked by a Liberal Democratic Party deputy about the prospects of resolving the territorial problem in Russian-Japanese relations, Masaaki Nakayama, member of the Cabinet and general director of the government's Management Coordination Agency, said with conviction that Russia and Japan are legally still at war.

This bold statement by a government member puzzled deputies and elicited a prompt response from the Japanese Foreign Ministry, which hastily made several "corrections" at once recognizing the mistaken nature of the declaration. The determined minister was rapidly shown by some effective Japanese means that he was not entirely right and had gotten over-heated and subsequently, on his return to the parliamentary rostrum, Masaaki Nakayama tried to repudiate his own words in a far from elegant manner, saying that he had not been clear due to his ardent desire to return the "northern territories" to their Japanese motherland.

This entire bureaucratic "blitz" lasted less than a day, after which a lull set in as people waited in alarm for Moscow's reaction to Nakayama's revelations. This provides a remarkable excuse for a set-to, the only question being whether the Russian side will take advantage of it. People in Tokyo hope that Moscow will be satisfied with the Foreign Ministry's explanations and will not fuel the "fire."

It seems that, both in his statement and in his understanding of bilateral Russian-Japanese relations as a whole, Minister Nakayama was reflecting not so much his personal feelings as something more profound and durable — negative stereotypes, which are what shape Japanese perceptions of Russia and Russian reality.

Masaaki Nakayama, a minister and Liberal Democratic Party parliamentary deputy, is 63 years of age — the prime of life and a time of new horizons in a Japanese political career. Being a thoughtful and extremely pragmatic politician, Nakayama would obviously not succumb to emotion and blacken these prospects, especially since the topic of discussion is nothing new or abstract for him — Nakayama's career record includes the post of chairman of the parliamentary commission for foreign affairs in addition to his ministerial post and his post as chairman of the Commission for Public Security. The parliament's chief international expert is bound to know with whom Japan is at war and with whom it has diplomatic relations and is developing contacts. Nakayama is a lawyer by training, so his references to the legal aspects of the matter are no flight of fantasy but, so to speak, the view of a professional.

It only remains to point out that the post of minister for management and coordination in the incumbent cabinet led by Premier Murayama is becoming strangely fatal: quite recently, a few weeks ago, Nakayama's predecessor — Mr. Eto — was forced to resign following a diplomatic scandal. The reason for his early move was Eto's statement that Japan had not only oppressed Korea during its occupation of the colony but had also done something positive for it by developing construction, education, and the infrastructure. Seoul's uncompromising reaction to this historical "revisionism" forced Eto to resign.

Meanwhile the Japanese mass media have reported from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on a news conference given by U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering, at which he made statements that were pleasant for the Japanese but were surprising and even bizarre coming from a diplomat in his eminent position.

Pickering stated categorically that the four disputed islands of the South Kurils are Japanese territory. Russia should, according to the U.S. ambassador, return the disputed islands to Japan peacefully. The high-ranking U.S. diplomat went on to say that the United States, as the friend of both Russia and Japan, is working to promote the favorable resolution of the territorial problem. At the same time Pickering clearly warned his fellow U.S. businessmen against investing in the Kurils, saying that business projects in this region should be treated with great caution.

I can of course retort that support for Japanese territorial demands in the dispute with Russia is an official, long-standing position held by the United States. However, as a professional, should the U.S. ambassador to Russia not guard against voicing frank statements, opinions, and recommendations that far exceed the bounds of his direct competence?

A furor recently broke out in Moscow over the publication of an article by another U.S. diplomat accredited in Moscow, which contained passages and claims which are unseemly from the point of view of diplomatic protocol (my Washington colleague Vladimir Nadein reported this in IZVESTIYA). We are now seeing another incident, which is more dramatic than the previous one and could only happen on one condition, namely a patently and ostentatiously contemptuous attitude by the U.S. diplomatic service toward Russian diplomacy and the Russian authorities. The first episode was no coincidence, nor is the one now — the Americans are acting deliberately in an attempt to persuade everyone, first and foremost themselves, that they can handle everything in Russia.

Grachev Reiterates Opposition To Eastward Expansion of NATO

LD0912175295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 9 (INTERFAX-WEST) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told a press conference on the results of his visit to Belarus in Minsk today that Russia's position regarding NATO's possible expansion eastward remained unchanged. "In case this happens, Moscow retains the right to initiate creation of another military-political bloc, not to implement provisions of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, nor the START-I and START-II, and to revise its position concerning flank restrictions," Grachev said. Belarussian Defense Minister Leanid Maltsaw told the same press conference that he was also against NATO's enlargement. "To put it softly, I do not understand the statements of some neighboring countries saying they are ready to have NATO nuclear weapons deployed there," Maltsaw said. With regard to his talks with the Belarussian leadership, Grachev said the talks were "held in the atmosphere of fraternity and spiritual closeness." Grachev said "Belarus confirmed its policy for rapprochement with Russia" during his meetings with Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir and Defense Minister Leanid Maltsaw. As a result of Grachev's visit, Russia and Belarus signed 18 documents determining guidelines for bilateral military and military-technical cooperation. Grachev said he and his Belarussian counterpart would meet at least once every six months to discuss current problems. Grachev said he saw the development of bilateral relations between the CIS countries as the best way for reinforcing defense of the countries-signatories of the CIS Treaty on Collective Security.

"The implementation of multilateral inter-state agreements concluded by Russia is being delayed to a large extent because of the republics' failing to follow the uniform course," he said. Grachev said that shortly before his visit to Minsk he had met with the leadership of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. He also said he planned to visit Kazakhstan after the New Year holidays. Grachev said he would meet with the leadership of the Kazakh armed forces at a local training site.

"Many problems regarding military cooperation between the CIS countries are to be discussed at the coming session of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers set for January 12," Grachev said.

More on Grachev Visit to Belarus

MM1112123495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev and Aleksandr Pelts: "Russian Federation Defense Minister's Visit to Belarus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 December Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev arrived in Minsk at the head of a Russian military delegation. According to the program for the Russian defense minister's first official visit to Belarus, a plenary session of military delegations of the two states' defense ministries is to be held here.

During the meeting it is planned to discuss many questions of military and military-technical cooperation. In particular, the organization of collaboration between the Russian and Belarusian Defense Ministries in the sphere of joint regional strategic planning within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty and problems of utilizing the Belarusian Armed Forces' infrastructure in the interests of jointly ensuring security in the in the region and developing integration processes in the military sphere on problems of training cadres, in military science, and in information support for the activity of military departments.

Another important question is the withdrawal of Russian Federation strategic offensive arms from Belarusian territory. Great importance is also attached to joint combat alert duty to protect air borders.

At the suggestion of Defense Ministers Lieutenant General Leonid Maltsev and Army General Pavel Grachev the two states' military delegations divided into working groups and began to work according to the approved plan. Meanwhile the Russian defense minister met with Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir and also with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

At the Belarusian defense minister's invitation Army General Pavel Grachev also visited the city of Brest, where he familiarized himself with the situation in Belarus' recently created mobile forces brigade and visited the "Fortress-City of Brest" memorial complex.

Military, Technical Cooperation With Israel Viewed

LD0912200095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 9 (INTERFAX) — The discussion of opportunities for military and technical cooperation between Russia and Israel constituted an important part of the official visit to Israel by the Russian military delegation.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said that "state-owned and private Israeli firms have demonstrated great interest in this area," especially in joint scientific research and design and in upgrading Russian-made armaments.

A high-ranking Russian Defense Ministry official said that the Israeli side "shows us everything, explains everything to us and takes us where a spy, let alone a delegation, could not get," which demonstrates the degree of openness and the possibilities to study new Israeli armaments the Russian delegation enjoyed.

The interest of the Israeli side in cooperation with Russia was demonstrated not only to the delegation members but to journalists as well. In particular, possible variants of military and technical cooperation were discussed when the delegation and journalists visited the Elbit company specialized in the production of electronic systems for military use.

Arne Tal, a high-ranking Elbit official, explained in detail the qualities of the company's production, in particular of the elctronic systems installed at decade-old planes, helicopters and tanks.

According to Tal, instead of spending $50 million on the purchase of new armaments, it is possible to spend five or ten times as little and still have modern armaments.

Thus, Elbit upgrades MiG-21 planes in Romania. Czech planes with equipment installed by Elbit successfully compete on Asian markets. Installing Israeli electronic systems at Russian-made armaments can make the joint production competitive on international markets.

It is quite feasible technically to develop such cooperation which would be profitable for both sides. However, one cannot disregard such a factor as the U.S. military-industrial complex.

Despite the favorable disposition of the Israelis toward such a cooperation, they said it would be extremely difficult to develop. The United States has annually provided $1.8 billion in military aid to Israel since 1981, including on the gratuitious basis since 1984. The U.S. sets strict limitations on the sale and upgrading of armaments made in Israel with the use of the financial or technological aid of U.S. companies.

In reply to an Israeli journalist's supposition that the U.S. will not allow supply of electronic systems to Russia, Tal said that Israeli electronic systems have no U.S. components. However, he could not counter the journalist's statement that the U.S. may say that the design of Israeli equipment is financed by the U.S..

An official representative of the Israeli Armed Forces expressed the hope that "the U.S. is as interested in friendly relations with Israel as Israel itself is."

Despite the successful talks, there remain many problems in the area of military and technical cooperation between Russia and Israel. The talks can be described as sounding out opportunities for cooperation. Some military experts believe that even if the issue is okayed by the U.S. side, it may get stuck in Russia which is unable to finance works on time, keep up to the technological schedule or to quality standards.

It is too early to say which of the impediments will be harder to overcome.

Iraq Denies Contract Signed for Missile Components

LD0912154495 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1430 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "No Iraqi organization has signed any contract for supplying the country with materials used in the missile industry, or asked for examples of such materals to be supplied." So says a statement issued by a spokesman for the National Supervision Department of Iraq's military industrialization organization, the text of which Moscow Echo radio station received from Qarim Salim Murtada, press attache of the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow.

According to some mass media reports, the missile components seized by Jordanian customs services in November 1995 were destined for Iraq.

The press attache of the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow announced that, according to the statement of the National Supervision Department, it "has become accustomed to such provocative statements about Iraq, since they appear every time mutual understanding between the competent Iraqi bodies and the UN special commission on Iraq reaches a high level, and when serious progress has begun in the work of both sides toward lifting the embargo on the export of Iraqi oil."

The Iraqi National Supervision Department is responsible for observing UN Security Council Resolution 715 on monitoring disarmament in Iraq.

Ministry Denies Equipment Shipped to Iraq

LD0912150995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 9 (INTERFAX) — Moscow on Saturday denied media reports that a shipment of military equipment Jordan recently stopped being smuggled to Iraq came from Russia. The reports said the equipment confiscated in Jordan were Russian-made spare parts for Soviet-made Scud missiles.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement made available to INTERFAX, said Russia had nothing to do with the equipment. The country "is observing the regime of sanctions against Iraq and does not seek to bypass it, although the cessation of cooperation with Iraq has caused Russia serious financial losses," the ministry said. "Any attempts to accuse Russia of violating the international sanctions are groundless and are no more than a figment of a morbid imagination."

Russia, China Agree on Defense, Industry Conversion

LD0812202095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1924 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 8 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia and China agreed to develop cooperation in the fields of conversion of defense-related industry to peace-time production.

This theme was discussed on Friday at the talks of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with the governmental delegation of China headed by Colonel-General Liu Huaqing, Deputy Chairman of the Central Military Council of the Chinese People's Republic.

In addition, the two sides also discussed a contract for the purchase of Russian military hardware, informed sources told ITAR-TASS. Taking part in the talks on the Russian side were Viktor Glukhikh, Head of the State Committee for Defence Industry, and Pyotr Deinekin, Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force.

Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed Russia's interest in cooperation with China in the conversion fields calling "some space projects interesting, including joint space flights and the joint use of cosmic equipment," the premier's press secretary Viktor Konnov told ITAR-TASS.

The sides also discussed the possibility of bringing Russian perspective airliners Yak-42 and Tu-204 to the Chinese market.

Liu Huaqing confirmed that the Chinese leadership treats such cooperation "in a far-sighting way proceeding from strategic positions" and sees a similar approach on the Russian side.

He highly appraised the idea of space cooperation and cooperation in the field of conversion and high technologies saying that this process was already taking place between companies of Russia and China.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the fourth plenary meeting of the Russian-Chinese mixed inter-governmental commission on military and technical cooperation held in Moscow this week under the chairmanship of First Vice-Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Oleg Soskovets and Liu Huaqing.

Liu Huaqing conveyed good wishes by Chairman of the Chinese People's Republic Jiang Zemin to Russian President Boris Yeltsin so that he fully recovered after the illness confirming his invitation to the president to visit China "when it will be possible."

Russia, PRC, DPRK To Develop Special Economic Zone

SK1012142295 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 6 December, Russia, China and the DPRK signed a treaty on cooperation and coordination in New York. As a result, the issue of establishing a special economic zone in the coastal province of Russia is to be materialized. Concerning the special economic zone, the ROK and Mongolia will form a consultative committee. In 1991, the United Nations offered $4.5 million for the development of the coastal province. China, the DPRK, and Mongolia are reviewing a joint-venture project to develop three petroleum and forest resources. This project is estimated to require approximately $30 billion.

ROK Intensifies Army Combat Capabilities

SK1012142095 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] ROK Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho today issued a directive to Army units to intensify their combat capabilities to cope with an emergency situation. This military step will remain in force until April next year. Seoul recognizes that this step is necessary for preventing the danger of a terrorist act. However, some observers point out that at a time when former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and other former general officers have been detained on charges of the military coup in 1979 and corruption and irregularities, such a step is taken to continually maintain the soldiers' morale and ethics high. Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho warned that there is a danger of some military-turned high-ranking officials spoiling the public opinion due to their past erroneous acts.

French Decision To Cut Back Nuclear Tests Welcomed

LD0812205295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes Paris' statement of December 7 announcing that France will cut back the earlier planned series of nuclear tests, it said in a press release sent to INTERFAX today.

The French leadership said the series of nuclear tests would be completed before the end of February 1996.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it saw Paris' decision as "a practical move developing the agreement reached at the recent Russian-French summit in Rambouillet."

East Timor Protesters Leave Jakarta Embassy Grounds

LD0812160095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1420 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Andrey Bychkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JAKARTA, December 8 (ITAR-TASS) — East Timorese who were staying in the territory of the Russian embassy in Jakarta left the boundaries of the Russian mission at six p.m. local time in a bus of the mission of the International Red Cross. The departure of the group was organised by civil rights supporter Princen, prominent in Indonesia, the chief of an independent human rights institute.

The protesters were given shelter by an Indonesian non-government organisation in Jakarta.

This has been the end of a diplomatic crisis which developed on December 7 after a group of 58 East Timorese and people from other Indonesian districts got inside the Russian mission. They demanded a referendum in East Timor to decide the further destiny of the province, withdraw Indonesian troops and release all political prisoners.

Before giving the consent to the evacuation, the East Timorese were insisting on firm guarantees for their safety from U.N. organisations and the Indonesian military authorities.

Turks Reject Lysenko Bomb Allegations as 'Nonsense'

MM0812154295 Moscow TRUD-7 in Russian 8-14 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Khovratovich: "Turks Bewildered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Istanbul — The suggestion by State Duma Deputy Nikolay Lysenko that the bomb planted in his office could have been the handiwork of the Turkish special services has caused confusion and bewilderment in official circles in Ankara.

On Thursday [7 December] the Turkish mass media were vying with one another to carry Lysenko's accusations against the Turkish firms YeNKA and GAMA [names as transliterated], whose construction workers were alleged to include spies.

The Turkish construction workers completed the rebuilding of the State Duma a year ago but still turn up there from time to time — there is some unfinished work to do. The deputy believes that they planted the bomb in his office. And the special services did this, the deputy believes, because his party defends the rights of the Russian-speaking minority in the Transcaucasus. Which is the last thing that Turkey wants, again according to Lysenko, of course.

YeNKA representatives immediately rejected this claim as nonsense. It turns out that on the day of the explosion there were no Turkish construction workers inside the State Duma building. And even if there had been some there it would have been virtually impossible for them to get the explosive device past the guards. But the most important thing is that YeNKA and GAMA, like other Turkish construction firms, have been working well in Russia for a long time now. Their reputation means much more to them than cooperation with the special services, even if it is the Turkish special services.

Ministry Attacks Estonian Stance on Orthodox Church

LD1012001295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1621 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS Diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) -- The refusal of Tallinn city court to examine the lawsuit of the Russian Orthodox Church in Estonia (Moscow Patriarchate), which asked for recognition of its right to manage its own property, has become "another link in the chain of lawlessness being perpetrated against our Orthodox compatriots." This is said in a statement by a Russian Federation Foreign Ministry spokesman which was released today.

"This step," the document says, "is part and parcel of the consistent and insistent efforts of official Tallinn aimed at disrupting Estonian Orthodoxy's links with the Russian Orthodox Church. The tone of this campaign is being set by the top officials of the Estonian Republic, who have no shame in directly interfering in internal church affairs, despite the ecclesiastical canon right to indicate who is to convoke an assembly for elections of head of church and how this is done."

It continues: "The hounding of the Orthodox Church in Estonia cannot be seen in isolation from Tallinn's general hostility to Russia and its anti-Russian rhetoric. The Estonian authorities, resorting to the further aggravation of the situation around the Orthodox Church, have demonstrated how far they really 'adhere' to the ideals of democracy, human rights and freedom of conscience."

The statement stresses: "The deliberate policy of the present Estonian leadership of flouting the rights and liberties of the Orthodox believers living there cannot fail to be reflected in Russo-Estonian relations." Moscow expects the present situation with the Russian Orthodox Church in Estonia "will not leave those who consider themselves friends of this country indifferent".

NATO Grants Moscow's Demand on Flank Quotas

MK0912112995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Elmira Akhmedly: "The West Has Violated the CFE Treaty. Baku Is Unhappy Over Concessions to the North Atlantic Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia's refusal to fully carry out the requirements of the CFE Treaty, in particular the article on flank limitations, and acceptance of this fact on the part of NATO and Western countries cannot possibly pass unnoticed. Russia still insists on preserving on its southern flank — in Armenia and in the Northern Caucasus — 2,000 units of military hardware. Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev attributed this — in his expression — "need" to the fact that the CFE was signed at a time when the Soviet Union was still around and that there were none of the conflicts that are raging now. Now, in his opinion, in order to maintain peace and stability in the region, it has become imperative not "to extend the CFE limitations to the southern flanks of Russia." On 17 November in Vienna the Joint Consultative Group of CFE Member States (JCG) discussed "the flank limitations of Russia and Ukraine." It will be recalled that James Collins, U.S. State Department counselor for the CIS countries, during his visit to Baku in October said that all types of armaments in Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia must be brought into line with the CFE requirements before 17 November. It is appropriate to note here that Azerbaijan has repeatedly announced the inadmissibility of stationing armed forces of a third state on its territory and demanded a military inspection in Nagorno-Karabakh.

As mentioned above, Washington earlier insisted on Russia's downsizing its armed forces on the southern flank before 17 November. Today, however, we are witnessing a change in the U.S. position and a readiness for compromise with Russia. What could have caused such a turnaround? France's LIBERATION sought to set the record straight. On 10 October, citing informed sources in Washington, the paper wrote that in the course of a meeting between U.S. Vice President Albert Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, during the latter's visit to the United States in early October of this year, an agreement was reached on a dual route for the export of Baku's oil. In return for this America and NATO agreed to Russia's temporarily preserving on its southern flank weapons in numbers exceeding the established limits, although Russia had pressed for their permanent stationing. According to an informed source in the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, at the JCG conference in Vienna the Western countries supported Russia's demand to revise the CFE Treaty. Armenia by that time had circulated a note notifying the states party to the treaty about Russia's temporarily stationing on its territory a number of weapons allowed under the treaty (40 tanks, 55 armored combat vehicles, and 81 artillery pieces).

Commenting on this move, Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov said that "the treaty, by way of a mitigating measure, envisions the temporary stationing of armaments by one state on the territory of another in the flank zone." However, according to him, if Russia raises the question of revising the flank limitations, then logically the question of the temporary stationing of weapons, which is directly related to this problem, should also be considered by the CFE member states. He also noted that the JCG session expressed the opinion that the actions of Russia and Armenia are not conducive to mutual trust in the Transcaucasian region. According to Mr. Azimov, Azerbaijan raised the question of including this problem on the official agenda of JCG regular sessions. The 16 NATO member states announced their official support for Azerbaijan's position, recognizing the need to refrain from temporary stationing until consensus is found on the flanks problem. On 22 November this question was included on the JCG agenda. To all appearances, consensus will not be reached until the CFE member states allow Azerbaijan to have a corresponding number of weapons on its own territory.

Political Issues

Quarantine Imposed on Yeltsin's Sanatorium; Meetings Cut

LD0812125595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — Yeltsin has to discuss most important matters on the phone because a quarantine has been imposed in the Barvikha sanatorium where he is staying, senior Kremlin aide Viktor Ilyushin told INTERFAX Friday.

This is the reason, he explained, why Yeltsin has cut the number of scheduled meetings. Ilyushin denied rumors that Yeltsin's health is deteriorating.

"Whatever changes in his health are for the better," Ilyushin said.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Elections, Budget

LD0912132995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin discussed a number of very important issues of the country's political and economic life in a telephone conversation today, the head of the Russian government told journalists today.

The prime minister said they first of all discussed preparations for the upcoming elections to the State Duma as well as issues related to the passing of the 1996 draft federal budget. Chernomyrdin said he "is grateful to the State Duma deputies and ascribes great importance" to the fact that for the first ever time in Russia's recent history this house of parliament passed the budget in advance of a new financial year.

The prime minister said next year's draft budget will be discussed in the Federation Council today. He said that in this connection the Russian president has sent a message to the members of the Federation Council, which also contains words of gratitude for the work they have done. According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, he "very much hopes that the draft budget will be adopted by the upper chamber of parliament" before the end of the current year.

The head of the Russian Government noted that, during his conversation with Boris Yeltsin a number of other important political issues were discussed "which are essential to the country today." Replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question regarding the prime minister's mood a week before the elections, Viktor Chernomyrdin said his "mood is normal." "We must work so that we can be judged by our results," he stressed.

Yeltsin Tells Premier To Speed Up Judicial Reform

LD1012093995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0922 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Boris Yeltsin instructed Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to speed up progress of judicial reform in Russia without hesitating "to take the toughest measures to officials interfering with normal work of courts due to some reasons or other".

Reporting this, the Russian president's press service explained on Sunday that the need for Yeltsin's interference "was caused by the present critical situation in establishing the judiciary as an independent state system".

The report received by ITAR-TASS today notes that the Russian president's control department found out some serious drawbacks in the work of ministries and departments in carrying out the judicial reform and fulfilling the Russian president's decisions to speed it up.

Inspection established cases when the Russian Justice Ministry used funds, appropriated for the upkeep of courts, for other purposes. Their total sum amounted to 4,088.5 million roubles for 1994 and eight months of 1995.

Many heads of executive bodies in subjects of the Russian Federation failed to fulfill the Russian president's "Decree on some organisational measures to speed up the judicial reform in Russia", providing for allocating (before October 1, 1995) buildings suitable for normal operations of courts of law which are housed in unserviceable premises.

The government is instructed to ensure fully the implementation of all normative acts on the judicial reform.

Yeltsin Returns Defense Law to Duma; Signs Welfare Law

LD1012131595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — Boris Yeltsin today returned to the State Duma for finalization the law "On Defense" "because it is not fully in accordance with the Constitution and legislation of the Russian Federation," the press service of the head of state has reported.

At the same time it announced that the president signed the law "On the Fundamental Principles of Public

Welfare in the Russian Federation," passed by the State Duma on 15 November. The document is to ensure legal regulation of the population's social welfare.

Yeltsin Orders Government To Improve Wage-Paying System

LD1012120395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Boris Yeltsin instructed the government to streamline the mechanism reserving enterprises' funds assigned for wages.

The Russian president's press service reported on Sunday that the chief executive expressed concern over the situation developing at enterprises in connection with the implementation of government decision No. 1020 of October 13, 1995.

In the opinion of the Russian leader, this mechanism must preclude delays with wage pays and at the same time ensure the interests of budgetary sphere workers, which means a timely collection of taxes.

Commenting on the president's decision, his assistant Aleksandr Livshits noted that the government's previous decisions on reserving funds for wages "helped to ease somewhat tension in this sphere but resulted, at the same time, in growing non-payments to the federal budget."

According to Livshits, this aggravated the situation with financing organisations of the budgetary sphere.

Seeking to rectify the situation, Livshits continued, the government adopted decision No.1020 which "indicated movement in the right direction. However, it turned to be too tough. This aggravated the situation at some enterprises in the country".

Therefore, the president suggested that the government re-draft decision No. 1020 and take a more balanced decision.

Text of Yeltsin's Letter to Federation Council

LD0912094895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0752 GMT 9 Dec 95

[Text of letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to deputies of the Federation Council on 9 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — Esteemed deputies of the Federation Council!

The work of the Federal Assembly — the Russian Federation parliament of the first convocation — is coming to the end. Its formation and the organization of its work was a great achievement in implementing the provisions of the new Constitution of the Russian Federation.

It is difficult to say yet what these two years of collective work meant for the development of Russian democracy. It is up to our descendants to make a true evaluation of this most important period of our history, during which there has been a transition from head-on political clashes toward the new political reality, the essence of which is the search for ways of bringing together various interests.

During this time the State Duma and the Federation Council has adopted more than 300 legislative acts, many of which are extremely important for establishing Russian statehood and the new legislative system.

Interaction has been established between all branches of state power from the early days of the Federal Assembly's work. This has made it possible to pass a number of important federal constitutional laws, such as the laws On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, On Arbitration Courts in the Russian Federation, and On Referendum. The first part of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation was passed. It is referred to as an economic constitution of Russian, not without reason.

The understanding reached made it possible to form the membership of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation and ensure its successful functioning. In accordance with provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the houses of the Federal Assembly have made other important personnel appointments, such as to the posts of the procurator general of the Russian Federation, the chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, judges of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Higher Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation, as well as auditors of the Tellers' Chamber.

New forms of interaction in work have been sought in the course of the two preceding years when drafts for lawmaking were elaborated. As a result, this made it possible to set up a Joint Commission for Coordination of lawmaking activities represented by all branches of power. This has led to a better organized handling of draft laws and made it possible to avoid duplication and dissipation of effort.

Of course, there were enough problems in the course of the Federal Assembly's work. There had been disagreements between the participants in the legislative process. However, in spite of all that, the deputies succeeded in solving the main task — Russia's transition to civilized parliamentarism. A good start has been given for the work of the Federal Assembly of the second convocation.

In January 1996 the new convocation of the Federation Council will be convened. As in 1994, the president of Russia will open its first sitting. However, the lawmaking process should not be interrupted. Now all the tasks have been fulfilled. The portfolio of very important bills, drawn up for you by the State Duma, is not yet exhausted. Therefore, I hope that before the deputies of the next convocation begin their work, you will not interrupt your useful activities.

Esteemed deputies!

You have all the reasons to consider yourselves standing at the source of Russian democratic statehood.

Thank you for your creative work. I wish you a fruitful and successful work in the political sphere as well as in any other sphere you choose for yourselves.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Yeltsin Vetoes Law on Currency Regulations

MM0812152395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Dec 95 p 2

[Russian Federation Presidential Veto No. 1710, "Not To Create Conditions for Legal Instability," signed by B. Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 25 November 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] To I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Federal Assembly State Duma:

The Federal Law "On Amendments to the Russian Federation Law 'On Currency Regulation and Currency Control,'" adopted by the Federal Assembly State Duma 18 October 1995 and approved by the Federal Assembly Federation Council 15 November 1995, contains an unsubstantiated restriction on the Russian Federation president's competence established by previously adopted legislative acts (Article 6 of the Russian Federation Law "On Currency Regulation and Currency Control").

In addition, this Federal Law is aimed at establishing the competing competence of organs of legislative and executive power with regard to one and the same question — which creates conditions for legal instability in the relations being governed (as a result, it is not clear within what limits the procedure for the compulsory sale of currency receipts by residents [rezidenty] will be determined by laws and within what limits by edicts of the Russian Federation president).

Proceeding from the aforesaid and in accordance with Part 3 of Article 107 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I reject the Federal Law "On Amendments to the Russian Federation Law 'On Currency Regulation and Currency Control'" adopted by the Federal Assembly State Duma 18 October 1995 and approved by the Federal Assembly Federation Council 15 November 1995.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin.

Chernomyrdin: All Payment Arrears Now Settled

LD0812222695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2048 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — The Russian government in December made all the payments it had delayed, including to the defense industry, budget-funded bodies, pensioners and students, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told journalists Friday.

"The federal budget has settled its accounts with everyone for the first time ever," he underlined. At the same time, he stressed that Russia's regions bear a part of the expenditures on salaries and wages. He said he had warned governors of their responsibility for control of prompt payment of wages.

Chernomyrdin stated that the government will assist and promote military conversion projects and timely payment of salaries in budget-funded bodies and pensions. At the same time, he remarked that "much can be done locally now."

Premier, Orenburg Head Sign Accord on Division of Power

LD0912151995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 9 (INTERFAX) — A document on mutual delegation of powers and spheres of competence between the federal authorities and the Russian region of Orenburg, in the Urals, was signed in Moscow Saturday by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Orenburg Governor Vladimir Yelagin. The Orenburg region is the first region of Russia to sign such an agreement with the federal authorities, Chernomyrdin told correspondents after the ceremony. Similar agreements have been signed with 14 constituent republics of the Russian Federation.

According to the prime minister, they will soon sign similar agreements with the Sverdlovsk (Urals), Kaliningrad (an enclave separated from Russia by the Baltic republics) and Murmansk (north western Russia) regions and the Krasnodar territory in southern Russia.

Premier: Veterans Law To Take Effect in 1996

LD1012175895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 10 (INTERFAX) — The Law on the Veterans, which provides for considerable increases in the social payments to the Russian veterans, will go into effect in 1996, Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told reporters in Moscow Saturday. The law was adopted by the parliament and signed by the president about seven months ago, but did not go into effect immediately because of the budget deficit, said Chernomyrdin. He said that the payments, envisaged in the Law on the Veterans, had been included in the 1996 budget, approved by the State Duma and submitted to the Federation Council. Speaking about pensions, Chernomyrdin said that the unplanned indexation of pensions initiated by the parliament last July, had made the government find 7 trillion rubles which were not envisaged in the budget. In November, he continued, the indexed pensions had been fully paid. He also emphasized that the pensioners would receive their December pensions in December.

"We have caught up with the schedule and will observe it in the future," he said. He also warned the regional and local leaders that they would be punished for failing to ensure the payment of the transferred sums on time.

Satarov Cited on Extending Upper House's Term

MK1012062995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Dec 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "On Extending the Federation Council's Term"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The power of the Federation Council [upper house] does not end immediately after the State Duma elections, said Georgiy Satarov, aide to the Russian Federation president. He cited a corresponding article in the Constitution. In Mr. Satarov's words, the president thinks that the "continuity of the legislative process should constantly be ensured." In this connection, Mr. Satarov did not rule out [the possibility] that if the Duma does not manage to pass on time an approved 1996 draft budget to the upper house, the Federation Council could also consider this draft law after 12 December. They did not rule out in well-informed parliamentary circles that President Boris Yeltsin and the head of the upper house, Vladimir Shumeyko, will soon devise ways to resolve the situation. It is assumed in particular that they will reach agreement on forms for the continued functioning of the Federation Council until a new house has been formed.

Interior Minister Comments on Deputies' Murders

LD0812224295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov provided information Friday, at the request of State Duma deputies, on investigations into the murders of several lower house deputies.

Not everyone involved in the April 1994 murder of Andrey Aidzerdis has been detained so far, said Kulikov. Some of the suspects have been detained, while others remain at large.

The organizers of last February's kidnapping and murder of Sergey Skorochkin have been detained, he said. The murder was organized by the leader of the Lukhovitsy gang.

The killer of Valentin Martemyanov, beaten to death in the street in October of 1994, has not yet been found, said Kulikov.

The investigation into the November 1995 murder of Sergey Markidonov is continuing, said the interior minister. He did not rule out that the deputy was killed by his body guard, who later killed himself. However, it is too early to draw any conclusions before all the necessary analyses are made, said Kulikov.

Vice Premier Chubays Interviewed on Reforms

MM0712113395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Dec 95 p 5

[Interview with Russian First Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays by Mikhail Berger; place and date not given: "Anatoliy Chubays: I Sympathize With Our Opponents' Enthusiasm" — first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Four years ago an edict from president Boris Yeltsin formed a government which embarked on liberal reforms. Anatoliy Chubays is the only member of the first cabinet (its economic section) to continue to hold a key post in the Russian Government. Influential and unpopular, he is continuing with enviable persistence what he began four years ago. Today he answers IZVESTIYA's questions.

[Berger] Anatoliy Borisovich, you are constantly on two kinds of lists: the most influential and the most disliked politicians. But while on the lists of the first kind you are as a rule somewhere in the middle of the group, on the "hate lists" of the opponents of the present course your name most often comes first. Some politicians are recommending that the president or premier "give you up," and that step in their opinion would be assessed highly by the voters. Does that not depress you in purely human terms?

[Chubays] My answer will be unoriginal: It is not pleasant to live with it. At a reception recently I was approached by a well known journalists with whom I was not previously acquainted and he said he was glad of the opportunity to shake the hand of the devil incarnate. Some joke, don't you think?

Most often the reforms are a thankless task. I am far from the idea of drawing any parallels but I want to note that today Stolypin is seen as a great reformer. But to judge by his contemporaries' reminiscences the degree of hatred for him in society was enormous. And even the unbloodthirsty Russian intelligentsia reacted very restrainedly to his murder and obviously sympathized with the ideas for which he was killed.

There are personal emotions but there is also a professional understanding of the fact that it was this turn, initiated with early 1992, which saved the country from catastrophe. According to the information which I had at the time and which I have now, I can say unequivocally that if liberal reforms had not begun at the time the country today would either be awash with blood or would have ceased to exist. But the subjunctive (if) is not the best argument in the battle for the sympathies of one's fellow citizens. They cannot and should not compare what is with what could have been.

[Berger] But let us nonetheless try to make the comparison. If with your experience today you were to go back, what would you have done differently?

[Chubays] First, four years ago neither Gaydar nor I nor anyone in our team in their most desperately bold dreams could have imagined that any of us would be in the 1995 government. Our dreams, our boldest dreams, did not go beyond the spring and summer of 1992. At best we hoped to survive to examine in parliament the draft budget for 1993 and to leave because of fundamental differences on this subject....

Today I can say that the thrust of the ideas with which we came in 1991 has been accepted. Look at the content of the very serious political debate on the draft budget for 1996. The entire battle has flared up around what inflation will be next year: Whether it will be 1.2 percent a month or 1.9 percent. What in 1992 was seen as Martian is today accepted as part of ordinary speech. The "little boys in pink pants" have forced even their most spiteful opponents to talk this language. That is an enormous advance.

Yes, some things could have been done differently and some individual problems could have been approached differently but as a whole the line chosen four years ago has proved viable. I understand the person whose wages have been held back for several months and he is prepared to destroy the government. But he does not even suspect what would have happened to him and the country if we had not kept to our main line.

[Berger] What could have happened to the country?

[Chubays] By fall 1991 the country was virtually without food. Coupons were introduced in all cities with which it was theoretically possibly to buy 0.5-1 kg of meat a month, five to 10 eggs, and 1 kg of sugar. They had already started to sell salt, vodka, and tobacco by coupon. The government had no currency to buy insulin. There were simply no currency reserves. The ruble as a currency unit was on the verge of perishing. And that meant there was no point in producing because there was nothing to buy with the rubles earned from selling output.

Yet in the fall of 1993 a heated dispute had already flared up with the agrarian workers over the purchase price for grain. And I thought at the time what would we have done if we had not made money work? Would we have sent in food detachments?

I am not speaking of currency. By that time its stocks had risen from virtually nothing to $12 billion. And in general the government has no currency problems. If currency is needed, go out onto the market and buy it.

[Berger] It is pleasant to count oneself among the saviors of the Fatherland but many people consider you are plunderers. You took people's savings. For many this was not simply a loss of money but a real tragedy. Was it not possible at the time somehow to compensate for the losses and then today you would have far more supporters and complaints about lost investments to the Savings Bank would not run into such astronomical figures.

[Chubays] For some reason almost no one pays attention to the fact that the Russian Government has taken on the commitments of the USSR Government for bonds repaid in kind. You remember, in 1990 you could buy a bond for 16,000 rubles [R] and in 1993 or 1994 you would get an automobile. Incidentally, these debts were the work of the government of Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov who for some reason does not like to talk about it now. We could have ignored these debts "belonging to other people" but we are paying them and have already gotten into the finishing straight.

Matters are far more complex as regards savings. Given the potential of the 1992 economy we could only have promised something in the long term, by 2000. But this was so much at odds with our idea of responsibility that we could not take that step although perhaps that was a political error.

[Berger] Perhaps when you look back you would have liked to have done something different in privatization?

[Chubays] Privatization has very many shortcomings, economic, political, and social. But it has one merit — it has taken place. That merit has a high price. At least it is better than a substantiated model of privatization, effective in all respects and error-free, which remains a model.

There are several very widespread rebukes. The first is that privatization is unfair because a great deal of property has found its way into the hands of the nomenklatura, the directors, and the mafia. The distribution of property in Russia, I say in reply, as in other countries, is taking place in proportion to the existence of the power elites.

If you do not like this distribution and the party nomenklatura in your opinion should not receive property then fine, do not give it any. But to implement this plan there is only one method — state violence. I do not discuss the question of whether the use of force is a good thing in such cases or not. I only know that in 1992 there was no instrument of state violence or even the mildest coercion.

The second traditional rebuke is that state property is being sold too cheap, it should be sold at a higher price. A higher price is a good thing and I am in favor of it. Only first you must answer the question: If we put the price higher, to whom do we sell? Who in Russia can pay for AvtoVAZ something which is at least remotely comparable to its real price? If you want to get a realistic price then you must wait 10-15 years until large capital has formed.

Moreover, if you want to sell high you must forget so-called ordinary people. Only first you must explain to them honestly: Chubays is selling state property cheaply, we have come to introduce order and we shall sell at a high price. And you ordinary citizens need not worry since you don't have any real money anyway.

The third charge is that people received nothing for their vouchers. In the majority of cases as of today that is true. That includes my own voucher, invested in the First Voucher Fund, which has brought me some ridiculous dividends.

But the point is that a voucher is a little piece of an enterprise. And if today that enterprise is incurring losses where will the big dividends or high price for shares come from? You have received part of a property and it is worth as much as the profit or money from its sale can bring in. Yes, today a large proportion of property is not very attractive from that viewpoint. But that is today, while tomorrow or the day after tomorrow it will being to bring in a profit.

Some people will say today: Over four years of reforms I have come to hate Gaydar and Chubays and I have sold off their voucher. Only in four or five years time that person should not be angry with us when he sees that the purchaser of his vouchers is driving around in a smart automobile. The person decided on his own to sell his voucher, the government did not force him to do it.

Incidentally, even today there are whole regions in Komi, for instance, or Khanty-Mansiysk, where according to our calculations each voucher — at the price of the shares bought for it — could buy two Volga automobiles. Of course, that situation is unique. The overall price for shares will grow to the extent that the Russian economy grows. And I do not doubt that Russia is on the threshold of an economic surge.

I am sometimes sorry for my opponents because their arguments are receding with the improvement of the economic situation. These are short-lived arguments but there are centuries behind my position. I am sure that we and our children and grandchildren will live in a Russia with a privatized production, with private ownership, and they will perhaps remember our discussions now about the "robbing of the people."

[Berger] Anatoliy Borisovich, you have frequently stated publicly that the process of reforms in Russia is irreversible. On the threshold of the elections in which victory is predicted for the left-wing forces, do you still adhere to this same viewpoint?

[Chubays] Attempts to return Russia to some stage of its past are possible. A return itself is, I am convinced, impossible.

[Berger] This year in terms of a number of economic indicators (inflation, level of industrial production) looks the most favorable of the years of reform. But virtually all those working in the real sector complain that it is pointless to develop material production in our country because of taxes and other constantly changing but always unsuccessful rules of the game.

[Chubays] Those who claim that conditions for production in Russia are bad are absolutely right. One reason for this situation is the gigantic discrepancy in terms of the efficiency of various kinds of production and various types of economic activity. The profitability of different types of business differs tens of times over. That is not the case in a single developed economy. That is production differentiation is in no way different from social differentiation.

We can fight this by two means. One — the immediate method — is taxes, excise, and other active redistribution work by the state from rich enterprises to poor ones to ensure that the latter do not die instantly. The other method is the long-term one. That is the modernization and normalization of production, including bankruptcies.

[Berger] But if the bankruptcy of a corporate body is a serious but not moral matter and most often merely means a change of owner, the bankruptcy of an individual is a real catastrophe. In Russia there is an increasing number of poor people and the number of indigents on the streets of the big cities is reaching critical proportions.

[Chubays] Indeed, the standard of living this year has declined compared with last year. But inside this average annual figure there are very curious processes which our opponents do not mention: Either they do not know or they are concealing them or else they are failing to understand. The real decline in the living standard was in the fall of 1994 through early 1995. That was the period of the highest inflation in the country, 15-18 percent a month. The result was the biggest decline in real wages. That fall and winter collapse influenced the whole picture in 1995. But what happened immediately after? The number of people with an income below the subsistence minimum declined from 50 million in February to 32 million in September. For October that figure was even lower — 31.2 million.

In other words if we beat down inflation the extent of poverty in the country declines. The poor cannot avoid inflation and not because they do not know what to do but because they do not have reserve capital which could be temporarily transferred into assets that are not subject to devaluation. An employee or teacher living on one wage can only fight inflation by one method: wait until his salary is increased. Incidentally, as of August the pace of the rise in wages for workers in the budget-funded sphere has substantially exceeded the rate of inflation. Moreover, for the first time in the years of reform the gulf between the income level of the richest and poorest Russians has started to narrow.

[Berger] You have already said that in 1992 the federal authorities were extremely weak. How do matters stand now? Can the government force a large and influential company to pay its debts to the budget or can it only discuss these problems involving the press? I have in mind a specific instance. A few weeks ago there was a scandalous investigation into the "Nizhnevartovskneftegaz" company which owed the federal budget R1.5 trillion in back taxes. At the time you threatened to dismiss the company director unless he repaid the debt. But it seems everything has subsided. At least the representative of the prosecutor's office who took part in the investigation has stated that nothing criminal was discovered in the company's financial activity.

[Chubays] I do not have any personal complaints against Mr. Paliy and his company. But debts to the budget must be paid and I insist on that, whatever pressure is brought to bear on me. When the "Nizhnevatrovskneftegaz" case was being prepared for hearing at the government commission I received more telephone calls from very, very esteemed petitioners than I had received in a long time. Some were gently demanding that I put a stop to it, others were not so gentle, and some were simply rude.

[Berger] I think that few people are technically able to talk to you on the telephone and ask or demand something.

[Chubays] Nonetheless at night before a session of the commission on nonpayments I received at least 10 telephone calls.

[Berger] And what do they say in such cases?

[Chubays] Something along the lines of: You don't understand.... Don't get angry.... Let us put it off for a week or so and then take a look.... The time isn't right.... When they say "don't hurry" it means you must not slow down. The session took place and it was decided that by 1 January "Nizhnevartovskneftegaz" should pay R750 million into the budget. The schedule was signed by Paliy. After that there was second wave of pressure involving Duma deputies.

But those who tried or are trying to bring pressure to bear underestimate the size of the case we have against the company. Far from everything we know about "Nizhnevartovskneftegaz" has gotten into the press. As for the statement by the General Prosecutor's Office employee then on my directions the general prosecutor was sent about two kilograms of documents on the case and Yuriy Skuratov promised to investigate it more carefully.

I am more interested by the schedule for making payments to the budget signed by Paliy. This schedule is so far being met. The greater the degree to which it is met, the fewer complaints we will have.

Tell me, can I put a question to journalists?

[Berger] Naturally.

[Chubays] Do you ever admit your own mistakes or do you only track down other people's mistakes? In the spring and summer of this year the press actively discussed the subject which can hypothetically be called the "fall catastrophe." I can only call this hysteria and IZVESTIYA also took part in fueling the situation. One of the calmest headlines at the time read: "Government Defenseless Faced with Fall Onslaught of Inflation."

And what did we get in the fall? Never in the past four years in Russia has inflation been so low for such a long time. If only one of the authors of the doom-laden articles were to write today: Forgive me, esteemed readers, I was wrong when I wrote about what awaited us and they, the government, however hard it is to admit, were right.

[Berger] I know only one situation, only one type of social system in which the people constantly thank the government for its concern for people and the press persistently and in a principled manner points to the authorities' achievements and successes and I have not yet forgotten that situation.

[Chubays] Nor have I, although even in different times when the government simply has to be to blame for everything, I do not want people to close their eyes to what we are doing.

Shumeyko Assures Diplomats of 'No Coup' Threats

LD0812141395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1104 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 8 (ITAR-TASS) — The level of political stability in Russia is now much higher than two or three years ago, Federation Council chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said in his address to the heads of foreign diplomatic missions in Moscow today.

Shumeyko said he was not inclined to "overestimate the positive shifts that have surfaced in the country's economic life" due a more active involvement of the state with the economy. According to him, it was too early to speak about "any major turn-around for the better." "Society is increasingly aware" of the need to modify the reform strategy, he said, pointing to the emergence of a new public-political movement "Reforms — a new course" as evidence of change in public mentality.

Shumeyko said the new movement was being founded on the initiative of some members of the Federation Council, regional leaders and representatives of the business community. He expressed confidence that "only a mass movement backed by the regions can come up with an optimal model of the next stage in reforms associated with a greater role to be played by the state in the process."

Shumeyko admitted that one of the motives behind the new movement was "the acuteness of the political struggle around the election to the State Duma" and concern over the deepening of the rift in society." He said the new movement would be able to contribute to consolidation of society.

Federation Council chairman assured his audience that the upper house's "present and, even more, future make-up will put up a reliable barrier in the way of any attempts at reversing the reform." He stressed the "huge constitutional powers of the President of the Russian federation who determines the strategy of the country's social and economic development and is a guarantor of compliance with the Constitution."

"Boris Yeltsin's commitment to democracy and reform is beyond doubt," Shumeyko stressed. A multi-tier protection system has been created to ensure stability of Russia's political, social and economic development, he said.

All this makes clear why no coup is threatening Russia as a result of elections to the State Duma, Shumeyko said.

Military & Space Issues

Premier Speaks on Defense Allocation, Conversion

LD0812222395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2147 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Government allocated an additional seven trillion roubles (about 1.5 billion U.S. dollars) for financing the defence order, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told reporters on Friday.

Speaking about the problem of financing the Russian military and industrial sector and the implementation of conversion projects, Chernomyrdin said that "over 70 percent of the country's economy was military-oriented when the Soviet Union alone confronted practically the rest of the world."

"Now the geopolitical situation has changed. We are glad about it. But such large-scaled conversion requires a tremendous material and financial effort, as well as time," he said.

Chernomyrdin reiterated the government's determination to go ahead with the conversion programme.

Touching upon the problem of the preservation of the country's defence potential, he said that defence was and remains a task of paramount importance.

The most important thing is to establish the state defence order, "which is necessary and from which we will never draw back," he stressed.

In this connection Chernomyrdin said he recommended the Defence Ministry to "clearly define and formulate the state order" and make it known to the factories involved, taking into consideration the 1996 budget adopted by parliament.

The prime minister also confirmed the intention of the government to strictly abide by Russia's international commitments concerning the elimination of the nuclear and chemical stockpile.

Navy Chiefs Blamed for Black Sea Fleet's Demise

MK0912134495 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 7 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Korotkova: "There Is No Catherine the Great To Keep You in Check"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two weeks ago, the defense ministers [of Ukraine and Russia] agreed in Sochi on the transfer of 150 Black Sea Fleet facilities to Ukraine's naval forces. The Russian Black Sea Fleet will shrink to the size of Sevastopol following the transfer of the Kerch military garrison, which contains training grounds for aircraft rocket and missile, naval, and airborne forces; an airfield; a ship-repair plant; and ship life-support systems, as well as the "Malaya Krepost" arsenal and a Black Sea Fleet air ammunition dump.

The Navy press center decided to dispel the panic that had started to set in, stating the other day that "today the Black Sea Fleet as before maintains the established order of combat readiness and is a reliable guarantor of Russia's southern borders." The Black Sea Fleet does not share its Moscow chiefs' optimism. A senior officer of the Black Sea Fleet staff, who wished to remain anonymous, said in a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS interview: "The General Staff of the Navy is trying to solve the fleet's problem as a whole by fully surrendering the Black Sea Fleet to Ukraine. Mass media commentaries in this regard, in my view, have been inspired by the Main Staff and are needed in order to spread panic among Black Sea Fleet personnel, to absolutely disorganize and break up the fleet — and to later depict it as a needless organization unable to function, which should have been scrapped. I have long served under the General and Main Staffs of the Navy, and I know that these are people incapable of defending the fleet. They are only preoccupied with solving their own problems. Can Admiral Selivanov, for example, tackle the fleet's problems if he is now concerned about acquiring a third apartment — this time around, in Moscow (the two others are in Sevastopol and St. Petersburg). As a consequence, the Black Sea Fleet still has no schedules for turning over the facilities or documents for handing them over. Everybody depends on rumors and conjecture. We know one thing — faceless people who lack insight will surrender us sooner or later. As for the Black Sea Fleet, locked in one base — Sevastopol — it will cease to be a fleet. There is no such thing in world practice.

Cosmonauts Take Space Walk, Prepare for Docking

LD0912115495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 9 (INTERFAX) — Russian cosmonauts Sergey Avdeyev and Yuriy Gidzenko, who are part of an international crew aboard the space station Mir, carried out operations in Mir's transitional section in the conditions of outer space, the press service of the Center for Flights Guidance at Moscow has reported. Working from 22:23 to 22:52 Moscow time, the two completed preparation for docking a scientific module Priroda with Mir in March, the source said, adding that after the section's depressurization, Avdeyev and Gidzenko removed a docking unit from one side of the section and fixed it on the other side. It is to this unit that Priroda will be docked in March. German astronaut Thomas Reiter from the European Space Agency, the third member of the international crew, remained aboard Mir, controlling the work by his Russian crew mates in outer space. It was the sixth space walk for Avdeyev and the first for Gidzenko, the press service stressed. Yet another space walk is planned with Reiter to take part before the team returns to the earth tentatively in February. By preliminary estimates, the expedition will last 179 days, the source reported.

Cosmos-398 Satellite Burns Up Over Pacific

LD1012220795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2140 GMT 10 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — The artificial earth satellite "Cosmos-398" entered the dense layers of the atmosphere at 2309 hours Moscow time [2009 GMT] on 10 December, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by telephone from the Analytical Center of the Russian Space Control System. The space object was destroyed over the waters of the Pacific Ocean and burned up. Individual small parts of the structure may at 2315 hours may have reached the surface of the ocean southeast of the Hawaiian Islands.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Asks Federation Council To Continue Work

LD0912083795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — "I hope that you will not interrupt your active and useful work until the inauguration of the parliament of the next convocation," Russian President Boris Yeltsin writes in his letter to the Upper House of the Russian Parliament. ITAR-TASS has learned that it was received by the Federation Council on Friday evening.

The president stresses in his letter that the new Federation Council will meet in January 1996, but the lawmaking process should not be interrupted until then. "Not all the tasks have been fulfilled", and the portfolio of the most important bills, drawn up by the State Duma for the Federation Council, is not exhausted, the letter says.

The president notes that the formation of the Federal Assembly (Parliament) and the organisation of its work "were a great achievement in the effort to implement the new Constitution of the Russian Federation".

Yeltsin's letter will be read out during the Saturday meeting of the Federation Council.

Federation Council to Remain at Work

LD0912100495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — The powers of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly shall be regarded terminated from the moment a newly-formed House begins its work. Such a provision is contained in a resolution passed by members of the Upper House of the Russian Parliament on Saturday.

This is prompted by the need to ensure the enactment of the Constitution provision that "the Federation Council is a permanently functioning legislature."

The House members have also emphasised that the resolution was passed in response to President Boris Yeltsin's Saturday's appeal to the Federation Council, urging it to continue its work until a newly-formed House begins to function.

Upper Chamber Agrees to Suspend Media Privatization

LD0912204695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 9 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Federation Council approved a bill Saturday suspending the reorganization, privatization and liquidation of state-owned television and radio companies until the adoption of a special federal law.

A total of 96 Council members voted for the bill and two against it (the quorum is 90). The bill was passed by the State Duma on November 24.

Under the bill, the use of the first Moscow frequency channel and of the Moscow-Global satellite TV system by private commercial organizations, including by the Public Russian Television (ORT), must be suspended.

The law prohibits the transfer of state property to private commercial television and radio companies.

According to the text of the bill, the act is aimed at "preserving the system of state television and radio ensuring that the citizens and public organizations have equal access to mass media."

Federation Council Welcomes Law Combating Corruption

LD0912171695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1251 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council has approved laws "On the Battle Against Corruption" and "On the Battle Against Organized Crime." The laws were accepted by the State Duma after being finalized by a bilateral conciliatory commission.

The law on the battle against organized crime is needed to settle an important area of legal relations — the creation of a legal framework to step up the battle against new forms of crime, which pose a major threat to not only the rights and interests of citizens, but also the security of society and the state as a whole. This was said by the committees of the Federation Council for security, defense, constitutional legislation, and judicial issues.

The new version of the law contains additional measures for supervision by the procurator and the courts and the means of putting this into effect. It also contains measures to protect witnesses. The number of bodies, given the right to combat organized crime, has been substantially reduced. Rules on how long someone can be detained and when they have to be charged are laid down in accordance with the criminal process code. The new law is important because there are no differing interpretations and applications of legal norms in it, according to deputies.

Corruption "has become a dangerous hindrance to democratic transformations. It demolishes results of state programmes, threatens the country's national interests and the constitutional rights of citizens", said the chairman of the Committee on Security and Defence Issues, Petr Shirshov. Corruption has also become "a reliable cover for organized crime and often is its catalyst and protector." These measures display the value of this new law. Deputies also noted that another law was passed with it in which definite measures on criminal law are proposed that will substantially strengthen the fight against corruption.

Duma Passes Law on Foreign Intelligence Service

LD0812203695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1944 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 8 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma has adopted today on the whole a federal law "On Foreign Intelligence Service." The need to carry out intelligence activities will be determined within the limits of their powers by the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council and the State Duma proceeding from the impossibility or inexpediency of ensuring security of the Russian Federation by other means, the law says.

According to the law, the intelligence activities are implemented on the basis of principles of the division of authorities of state security bodies, legality, respect for human rights and freedoms, subordination to the President of the Russian Federation and the Federal Assembly, as well as the combination of open and secret methods and means.

Under the law the aims of the intelligence activities are providing the Russian president, the Federal Assembly and the government of the Russian Federation with intelligence information necessary for making decisions in the political, economic, defence, scientific and technical, and ecological fields.

For achieving the aims of the intelligence activities the law specifically authorises foreign intelligence bodies to establish on a confidential basis relations of cooperation with persons who voluntarily agree to this, to take measures to "cover" the personnel and organise its activities with the use of belonging to different institutions, and to use for purposes of secrecy various documents concealing the identity of the officers of the staff and ensuring their security.

According to the law, general guidance of the foreign intelligence organs of the Russian Federation is carried out by the Russian president.

In conformity with this document, intelligence information is to be reported to the President of the Russian Federation, chambers of the Federal Assembly and the Russian government, as well as to federal bodies of executive and judicial bodies, enterprises, institutions and organizations which are determined by the Russian president.

Details of Foreign Intelligence Legislation

LD0812205795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1910 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — Russia's State Duma passed a law on the foreign intelligence service in principle Friday. In part, the document defines the goals of foreign intelligence, including providing the Russian president, Federal Assembly and Gvernment with information essential for political, economic, defense, science, technology and environmental decision- making. The service will also promote Russia's national security policy, economic development, scientific and technological progress.

According to the law, intelligence cannot pursue antihumanitarian goals and those not envisioned by this law. During the debate, the Duma left out a provision enabling a special body of the Federal Security Service (FSB) to carry out foreign intelligence activities. Chairman of the Duma security committee Viktor Ilyukhin and Foreign Intelligence Service Director Yevgeniy Primakov actively opposed this provision.

Primakov maintained that creating such a body within the FSB "will reinstate the former KGB in all its functions."

He voiced no other remarks or objections and asked the deputies to pass the law.

The Duma submitted the document for approval by the Federation Council.

Yeltsin Returns Laws on Pensions, Heroes to Duma

LD0912120595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1131 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has returned to the State Duma without examination the texts of the Federal Laws "On Granting to Heroes of Socialist Labour Some Social Guarantees, Stipulated by the Russian Law on the Status of Heroes of the Soviet Union, Heroes of the Russian Federation, and Bearers of all the Classes of the Order of Slava" and "On the Procedure for Calculating and Increasing State Pensions", which were submitted to him for signing and publication. Yeltsin addressed a letter in this connection to Speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin, says a report of the Presidential Press Service received by ITAR-TASS today.

The president "is compelled to return the texts of these laws, because Part 3 of Article 104 of the Russian Constitution was not observed when the bills were tabled in the State Duma", the letter points out. "The Constitution says that bills, envisaging spendings from the federal budget, can be tabled only with the conclusion of the Russian government. Precisely this requirement was not fulfilled."

The president noted that, being as he is, a guarantor of the Constitution, he could not regard the submitted texts as adopted federal laws, because the State Duma had ignored the constitutional requirements regarding the procedure of their adoption already at the stage of their presentation. The president, the letter stresses, insists on the observance of the rules guaranteeing the right of legislative initiative and of the procedures governing the adoption of federal laws, fixed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the report of the Press Service says.

Duma Names Representatives to National Banking Council

MM0812150395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Dec 95 p 6

[Unattributed report under the rubric "In the State Duma" and the general heading "Order Needed in the Financial Sphere"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has issued a decree appointing Mikhail Mikhaylovich Zadornov and Vladimir Vladimirovich Semago as members of the National Banking Council representing the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma.

Duma Backs Law To Delay Privatization of Some Banks

MK1012140495 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Dec 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "State Duma Puts Off Bank Privatization"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Friday [8 December], the Russian Federation State Duma passed in its entirety a law amending and supplementing the current law "On the Central Bank of the Russian Federation." The amendments delay the privatization of Vneshtorgbank and former Soviet foreign banks until 1 January 2000. The previous law called for winding up this process before 1 January 1996. The parliament passed a similar postponement six months ago affecting Sberbank's block of state-owned shares controlled by the Central Bank of Russia. In line with this change in the law on the Central Bank of Russia, Sberbank can be privatized only by a decision of the Russian Federation's Federal Council. The law passed by the Duma is being passed to the Federation Council for consideration.

Rybkin Withdraws Draft Law on Ingush Rehabilitation

LD0812215795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1902 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma, parliament's lower chamber, today failed to make a first move towards rehabilitating the people of the internal Russian republic of Ingushetia.

The State Duma passed the draft law on rehabilitation of the Ingush people in the first reading, but then unsuccessfully tried to annul the voting results. The Duma attempted a revision of its own decision after State Duma deputy from North Ossetia Aleksandr Dzasokhov said he would renounce his parliamentary seat to protest the Duma's move.

State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin withdrew the draft law from the lower chamber's agenda and submitted it to the State Duma Committee on Federation Issues.

The draft law was proposed by the Ingush People's Assembly (parliament). In particular, the draft provides for "restoring territorial rights of the Ingush people, including the transfer to under Ingushetia's jurisdiction of the Prigorodny region and part of the Malgobek region, which currently belong to North Ossetia."

Dzasokhov sees this draft law as "unreasonable and flammable," he told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview. "In defiance of procedural regulations, the draft law was distributed to Duma deputies only on December 6 and was not considered by the Duma's corresponding committees," he said.

"Issues regarding territorial rehabilitation can be settled only on the basis of mutual consent between the federation's constituent members," he said.

State Duma Approves Law on Registration of Parties

LD0812221195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 8 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma has basically approved a law "On Political Parties" to specify types, creation procedure and registration of parties, rights and forms of control over their activities.

Under the law, political parties can be freely formed without any permission at a constituent congress. A party can be founded by no fewer than ten individuals.

The law prohibits the creation and activities of political parties whose goals or actions are oriented to change by force fundamentals of the constitutional system and violate Russian integrity, undermine state security, create military units, stir up social, racial, ethnic or religious discord and feud.

Party structures cannot be formed in executive authorities or local governments, the Russian Armed Forces, among law-enforcement agencies, or within staffs of legislative institutions of power. In case of a state of emergency in Russia or some of its regions, there can be temporary limits on party activities in the form and amount envisaged by the federal law on the state of emergency. The law introduces the notion of state financing of political parties. Financing of election campaigns of nationwide political parties which participate in federal elections shall be done by the Central Electoral Commission or other types of electoral commissions.

Factions of political parties in the State Duma or regional legislative institutions of power shall act in accordance with corresponding laws.

Parties shall publish financial reports on sources, amount and spending of the money received by the party treasury during a year, as well as on party property and taxes paid. The financial report of a party shall be submitted to the Russian Audit Chamber after being verified by tax bodies.

The law was submitted to the parliament's upper chamber for approval.

Probe Launched Into Production-Sharing Agreement Law

LD1012184095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 10 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the State Duma Committee for Economic Policies Sergey Glazyev told INTERFAX Sunday that he had drafted an official inquiry to the Duma's Ethics Commission in view of the "attempts to falsify" the law on production-sharing agreements, adopted by the State Duma on December 6.

Glazyev said that Vice Chairman of the State Duma Committee for Economic Policies Aleksey Mikhaylov (Yabloko), had handed Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin "the draft proposed by the Yavlinskiy-led Yabloko faction, which had been rejected by the conciliatory commission, not the draft presented by the conciliatory commission."

The Yabloko variant does not take into account things of cardinal importance, namely the principles regulating taxes and customs duties, he said.

It also envisages privileges for the companies which develop oil fields and other mineral deposits, as a result of which the federal budget will sustain large losses, said Glazyev.

He said that he did not know whether Ivan Rybkin had received the document, but noted that it was to be signed last Saturday.

Glazyev said he would urge the State Duma to do everything it could to "exclude such incidents in the future."

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage: Elections, Politics, Military

Khasbulatov Withdraws From Elections

LD0912151495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Dec 9 (INTERFAX) — Former chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov told a briefing in the Chechen capital Groznyy today that he had withdrawn his candidacy from the race for the head of the Chechen Republic.

"Political pre-conditions for the elections have not been created," Khasbulatov explained. "The successfully launched talks between Chechnya and Russia have been suspended because of the Russian side," he said.

"Furthermore, technical conditions for the elections have not been created and organization of the elections is poor," he said. "Even the lists of voters in the republic are not clear. There is no exact number of voters because data collected six years ago is being used," he explained.

"If the elections are declared valid, this will cement the split on the territorial principle within the republic," Khasbulatov said. "In this case, two dwarf republics will appear: the Chechen Republic and Ichkeria," he said. "This threatens to provoke another war, another serious deterioration of the situation both in Chechnya and the entire North Caucasus and in southern Russia," Khasbulatov said.

"That is why I decided not to play bloody games called elections, which will inevitably be accompanied by bloodshed," Khasbulatov said. With regard to the Moscow agreement between Chechnya and Russia, he said "such actions fix the policy aimed at renouncing the peace settlement of the crisis through talks." He considers this agreement as "incomprehensible" because the "methods for drafting the treaty and its signing fail to correspond even with basic standards."

"The treaty has not even been discussed with the warring party, which in fact has ensured the opportunity to conclude the agreement," he said.

Khasbulatov on Reasons for Withdrawal

LD0912135495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Sharip Asuyev, Sergey Trofimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Ruslan Khasbulatov, one of the four candidates to the post of head of the Chechen Republic at the forthcoming elections on December 17, said that he withdraws his candidature. He announced this at a news conference here today.

Abdulkerim Arsakhanov, chairman of the Electoral Commission of Chechnya, confirmed this to ITAR-TASS today. He said that Khasbulatov had officially withdrawn his candidature. There are now three persons on the list of candidates to the post of head of Chechnya — present head of the Republic Doku Zavgayev, Lecha Saligov and Mavsar Aduyev.

The chairman of the Republic's Electoral Commission refuted rumours that the Electoral Commission is preparing a decision stating that Chechnya is not ready for the election.

Explaining the reasons why he decided not to run, Khasbulatov said that if elections in Chechnya are pronounced valid this will result in a "split in the Republic and bloodletting". Khasbulatov said there are neither political, nor psychological, nor organisation or technical conditions for the preparation and holding of normal elections in Chechnya.

He believes that appointing elections in Chechnya sharply increased political tension. "If it is stated that the elections in Chechnya have been valid, the split of the Republic for territorial principle will be perpetuated with the formation of two tiny republics — 'the Chechen Republic' and 'Ichkeria'," Khasbulatov said.

Rights Activist Protests Election

LD0812232695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 2040 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Kovalev, chairman of the Human Rights Commission has lodged a complaint with the Supreme Court concerning the illegitimacy of holding elections in Chechnya on 17 December. The celebrated human rights activist points out that there are all the signs of an emergency situation in the republic such as restrictions on the freedom of movement and, in places, a curfew, as well as the presence of illegal armed formations and Russia's military units. To conduct the elections in this situation, in Sergey Kovalev's view, is a crime.

Moscow-Signed Agreement Reported

LD0812130795 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Dec 95

[Report over video by unidentified correspondent; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A most important document was signed in the Russian government building at 0900 today. It is an agreement on the basic principles of mutual relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic. Its essence is that Chechnya has, from now on, received a so-called special status.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Chechen Government head Doku Zavgayev, and Oleg Lobov, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in Chechnya, signed the agreement.

Following the signing ceremony Viktor Chernomyrdin briefly explained to journalists the meaning of the special status of the Chechen republic, not without Zavgayev's assistance:

[Begin recording] [Chernomyrdin] All of this is within the framework of the Russian Constitution. It is a normal republic, which is a part of Russia, and it has all the rights and will live according to all...

[Zavgayev interrupts] With the maximum of rights and within the framework of the Constitution.

[Chernomyrdin continues] All the more so because its rights have been enhanced, just what was needed. [end recording]

According to the Russian prime minister, no kind of armed resistance will be capable of arresting the process which has gotten underway:

[Begin recording] [Chernomyrdin] Confrontation may continue to grow and grow, but it is already history — the process cannot be stopped, nor will anyone allow it to be stopped, by Dudayev or by anyone else.

[Zavgayev] Our main guarantee that this document will work is the mood of the people. People are tired of this vandalism, violence, of all that was being done there over the past three or four years. [end recording]

Following the signing ceremony, Doku Zavgayev told a briefing that the federal authorities and the Chechen leadership have been moving toward this bilateral agreement for a very long time. Everyone realized that given its history and its particular frame of mind, Chechnya needed a special status and now the country has received it, Zavgayev said. He stressed in particular the significance of Boris Yeltsin's earlier edict concerning legal guarantees for those who took part in combat operations.

[Begin Zavgayev recording] The essence of the document consists in the fact that the Russian president has delegated a part of his rights and powers to our republic. This is the first time something like that has been done in our country's history. He delegated his powers and made it possible for us, ourselves, to determine the extent of the guilt of these people and to absolve them of responsibility as we see fit. Here, then, you have one of the elements of the special status. [end recording]

The agreement signed today will remain in force even if I fail during the coming elections, said Zavgayev. As for the elections in Chechnya, they will take place. The mood of the republic's population is an indicator that they will. After all, it is already five years since the last elections were held in the republic.

Replying to a question on what future Dzhokhar Dudayev can expect, Doku Zavgayev snapped back that each person is master of his own destiny. In conclusion, the head of the Chechen Government stressed that the agreement that was signed today represents a base to prepare the main treaty on the demarcation of powers and areas of remit of authorities, similar to those signed between the Russian Government and a number of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, for instance Tatarstan or Bashkiriya:

[Begin Zavgayev recording] The treaty itself will be signed somewhat later, following our elections to the people's assembly. Possibly some work will have been done by then and a constitution of the republic will have been adopted, that is to say, when the necessary attributes are in place. [end recording]

The agreement came into force on its signing.

Khasbulatov Criticizes Agreement

LD0812202595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Dec 95

[Report by correspondent Piskunov, with recorded remarks by Ruslan Khasbulatov, from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Piskunov] The agreement [between Russia and Chechnya] signed in Moscow today has evoked quite different comments in Groznyy. Here is the reaction of Ruslan Khasbulatov, who, just like Doku Zavgayev, is one of the candidates to the post of the leader of the Chechen republic.

[Khasbulatov] Well, obviously, I have — let's put it bluntly — no positive feelings about this, because it will drive the warring parties even further apart.

[Piskunov] Ruslan Khasbulatov believes that by signing the agreement with Zavgayev on the eve of the elections on 17 December Moscow shows who it backs. At the same time:

[Khasbulatov] Moscow is backing one candidate in that specific way and by doing this, it is cutting the social ground from under his feet. [passage omitted in which Piskunov notes Groznyy residents have mixed feelings about the agreement] [video shows Groznyy scenes, Khasbulatov speaking, urban scenes, interviews with local people]

Politicians React to Moscow Agreement

LD0812211695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1454 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] Ordinary Chechens are oblivious of the agreement signed in Moscow, ITAR-TASS correspondents Sharip Asuyev and Sergey Trofimov report from Groznyy. The Eastern Market is the place where most people hear the news, but journalists could not find anyone there who had heard of the agreement.

Politicians are another matter, though. The leaders of the pro- independence Daymokhk (Fatherland) sociopolitical bloc were against the agreement, as one might expect.

The Union of the People for the Rebirth of the Republic, headed by Ruslan Khasbulatov, described it as "premature".

Lecha Magomadov, who leads the prestigious Committee for National Accord, welcomed the agreement. "It is important that people understand each other and find a common language", he said.

According to Magomed Inderbiyev, the chairman of the Chechnya Council of War and Labor Veterans, "the agreement is of great significance, and it is a shame it was not signed earlier. It would have helped defuse the tension".

Dudayev Warns Russia Over Occupation

MS1112101395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The London BBC Television Network in English at 1920 GMT on 9 Dec in its "Assignment" program carries a 45-minute report by correspondent Angus Roxburgh from Chechnya on how the republic is recovering from the recent Russian invasion, including brief interviews with Oleg Lobov Head of the territorial administration, and with Chechen leader Dudayev; both speaking in Russian with superimposed English translation.

The report opens with general shots of Groznyy, showing scenes of devastation, and including external shots of a hospital.

The report shows Chechen leader Dzokar Dudayev in full military uniform at his swearing-in ceremony, shots of the aftermath of a recent bomb attack and vox pox interviews with local people and the effects of the bombing on their everyday lives.

The report then shows a ceremony where hundreds of unidentified Russians and Chechens have been interred in mass graves containing both Russians and Chechens, followed by shots of a press conference given by Oleg Lobov Head of territorial administration, further footage of Groznyy, and an interview with a local man who had been arrested and tortured by Russian troops.

The report goes on to show footage of a Chechen held town on the outskirts of Groznyy, where Dudayev's men are seen destroying market stalls and a local shop which had allegedly been selling vodka to Russian soldiers.

The report then explains how the correspondent was taken by convoy to Dudayev's secret hideout, where Chechen leader Dzokar Dudayev is shown attired in military uniform surrounded by his bodyguards. Dudayev speaks: "You mean you'd rather see me dead? Everything is fine in our country, everything is fine. Yes we've got occupiers, but that's temporary. We intend to leave a limited contingent here. Those who are dead and those who are prepared to die on this land. That rest must either leave or die. There is no happy medium for us. For 350 years we had an agreement with Russia only a limited contingent. The Russians are all sick schizophrenics. They have a mania for world domination. My plans are to build a powerful state a strong one capable of opposing all evil and violence, however menacing it might look . We have everything we need, the genetic potential, natural resources and a nation, powerful and strong."

The report then shows the correspondent showing Dudayev what is purportedly a unique map, indicating that Chechyna was an independent state 140 years ago. Dudayev continues by saying: "I need this situation more than Russia does, neither war nor peace. What would I do if the Russians suddenly pulled out? I've got 300,000 men aged 17-50 homeless, jobless, embittered and with nothing to do. All they can do is fight. I need a little war, an enemy against whom to send them into battle. I have a programme not to separate from Russia but to enter it and destroy it from within."

The report continues by showing Oleg Lobov seated in his office in Groznyy. Lobov speaks: The constitution does not envisage secession from Russia. Chechnya is a part of the Russian Federation. The present constitution does not allow any of its territories to leave. Russia is a single country, but with wide autonomy from its nations."

The report concludes with shots of a group of children being evacuated to Turkey by their parents.

Shumeyko Sees Use of Force as 'Logical'

LD1012215895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Dec 95

[From the "Itogi" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent Yevgeniy Kiselev] Our program continues with a live interview with Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko. Thank you for coming into the studio today, Vladimir Filippovich. What I want to ask you straightaway is this: The decision to put troops into Chechnya was made a year ago. We know that this decision was put to the vote at a Security Council session at which you were present. If it is not a secret, how did you vote at the time, for or against?

[Shumeyko] I do indeed remember that Security Council session. As chairman of the Federation Council, I backed the Federation Council's view. As you will recall, a state of emergency was not introduced, although the question of that was raised from the very start. And essentially, a year ago, the Security Council, with my involvement, with my vote, made the decision to put troops in — for negotiations from a position of strength. As you will remember, there was an idea to put one ring around Groznyy, and another big ring around Chechnya's administrative border, for negotiations from a position of strength.

The war unfortunately started even before the troops arrived in Chechnya, as you will recall, on the territory of Ingushetia.

[Kiselev] There were casualties on the very first day.

[Shumeyko] The first day that the columns set off — and now it has turned into a savage, long drawn out war, very savage from all points of view.

[Kiselev] Do you regret supporting that decision in the Security Council?

[Shumeyko] One cannot regret anything — what does it mean to regret or not to regret doing something? Decisions are made on the basis of the information you have at your disposal. And at that time, it turned out that there was a huge amount of information, all the reports from all the services, all the schemes and plans for early negotiations, and the possibility of exerting pressure from a position of strength. Then matters developed in such a way that the information was constantly changing and — to use the word you used, do I regret it or not — if one could go back, knowing how things would turn out, that decision would not have been made.

[Kiselev] So you would like to turn the clock back, impossible though that is?

[Shumeyko] Probably, yes, because it is morally still hard to bear, given what is actually happening.

[Kiselev] So, according to Viktor Chernomyrdin's famous formula: We wanted things to turn out for the best, but they turned out the same way they always do.

[Shumeyko] Well, you know, I would not use even that formula here: It sounds a bit too frivolous to describe what is going on.

[Kiselev] OK, you are probably right, but when one says things turned out the same as ever, that means that as always, the decision was made on the basis of information that was insufficiently accurate, true, and complete.

[Shumeyko] But your reasoning here is the way decisions are made in a stable society. If you look back just a little, the entire democratic revolution that has been taking place in Russia — and a revolution has indeed been taking place — involved a whole chain of decisions based on force: The putsch in August 1991, September and October 1993. Decisions involving force were already a habit, society reacted as it did, and here the chain of decisions based upon the use of force seemed absolutely logical.

To say today that the special services that were reporting back in Chechnya did not have complete information, failed to report correctly, and did not prepare the troops properly, that the General Staff drew up the plan wrongly and that the troops were not properly trained — that is all for another state, a stable state. [passage omitted: Shumeyko says democracy must be underpinned to move away from use of force; elections may bring about change]

[Kiselev] How do you see your future shaping up now?

[Shumeyko] Fairly recently I published a book called "Russian Reforms and Federalism." The book sums up the results of the reforms over the past five years. [passage omitted: subject matter covers economic and political issues] I see this book as a basis, a logical basis for a move to another post, perhaps. I should like to concentrate my efforts today on the movement we have announced, but which does not yet exist — we want to hold an inaugural congress after the elections, on 21 December. I should like to try and make that movement, Russian Reforms-New Deal, not into an opposition movement — they are all opposition movements today — but to try and find a position, to make a position and an idea around which the state can be further developed. I am so fed up with taking part in political battles, I am so fed up with engaging in a battle of positions. Just see what is happening today: There is no battle of ideas, only a battle of parties; and not even of parties, but of personalities, of politicians among themselves. [passage omitted: Kiselev refers to Shumeyko news conference where he said could move anywhere from the New Deal movement]

[Kiselev] You do not rule out, then, that you may run in the presidential elections?

[Shumeyko] There will be presidential elections not only in June 1996, but then in the year 2000, 2004, and so on. I do not rule that out.

[Kiselev] But I am asking about 1996.

[Shumeyko] It is too early to speak about 1996. The movement does not exist yet, we have not even had the congress yet. I am not its leader yet. There is huge amount of work to be done. [passage omitted: Shumeyko says he left post of first deputy premier to stand in Federation Council elections]

[Kiselev] Can there be no return to the government for you?

[Shumeyko] Why not? That is not ruled out, either, depending on when, on the government, and on the post.

[Kiselev] In what capacity?

[Shumeyko] Well, at least, if I was a deputy prime minister, then nothing below that.

[Kiselev] And perhaps higher?

[Shumeyko] You cannot go up in politics to order, just as you cannot go down. You can tumble from the very top to the bottom and vice versa. Everything depends on the individual and on the circumstances. [passage omitted: Kiselev asks for Shumeyko's estimate of voting patterns in the Duma elections; Shumeyko says people should vote for whom they trust]

[Kiselev] Do you yourself agree that the communists could have considerable success?

[Shumeyko] Well, now, they are all communists here. The comparison is often made with Poland, people say the communists have got in in Poland, so that means they will get in in Russia, too. But who is in power in Russia? Communists! Communists, just like Zyuganov! But with a different idea, a democratic idea. All the people in power today are communists. [passage omitted: they are standing on different platforms]

[Kiselev] Who will you be voting for — if you do not mind answering that question, of course.

[Shumeyko] I have not yet decided. The constituency where I go to vote is Constituency No. 202. There are 17 candidates on the first-past-the post system, and there are two candidates I am interested in: Gonchar, Nikolay Nikolayevich, I have known him for five years as a professional, he is our Budget Committee chairman. And Krylova, who heads the movement to eliminate communal apartments, a woman, and such a bold one, too, tackling such acute problems. [passage omitted]

As for all movements on the list, there are two boxes here I might think about marking: Either No. 4, Transformation of the Fatherland, or the last — against all the others. I have not decided that either.

[Kiselev] You are renowned, doubtlessly rightly, for being a very well-informed politician. People are saying that whatever the result of the elections to the Duma, both for the single-seat constituencies and the party lists, nevertheless some changes in the composition of the government are inevitable. What do you think about this, can you confirm the rumors?

[Shumeyko] The thing is that, according to the Constitution, the president only has to agree the candidate for prime minister with the Duma. In my view, there is no need to speak of this today. As for the prime minister, what happens essentially is that the new Duma has been elected, but that does not mean that the government will change.

[Kiselev] According to the Constitution it does.

[Shumeyko] No change of government is envisaged. And here, I return to the New Deal again — we are always talking about a change of policy, not about a change of personalities. In one way or another, we need to learn to influence the powers that be. Nobody will dispute that the government today are professionals. [passage omitted: Kiselev asks what will happen if an opposition Duma tabled a vote of no-confidence in the government: Shumeyko says he will talk to Kiselev about that when it happens. Yeltsin is renowned for working irreproachably in accordance with juridical norms, as he has shown in regard to recent laws, and will doubtless continue to do so]

Yeltsin, Lobov Discuss Situation

LD0912200795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin discussed the situation in Chechnya in the run-up to the December 17 parliamentary elections with Secretary of the Security Council Oleg Lobov in a telephone conversation on Saturday [9 December], Yeltsin's press service told ITAR-TASS.

Yeltsin stressed the need to step up reconstruction work in Chechnya. He also demanded that the amount of work for 1995 be completed on schedule, and that new objects be prepared for restoration in 1996, the press service said.

Yeltsin also attributed importance to creating new jobs and ensuring the security of the civil population, it said.

Both leaders expressed confidence that the December 17 elections will mark an important step towards peace in Chechnya.

Yeltsin and Lobov also discussed preparations to a G-7 meeting on nuclear security, the press service said.

Grachev Denies Supporting Chechen Operation

LD0712213895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 7 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 7 (INTERFAX) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said he did not support the decision to send federal troops to Chechnya last December.

"Now, a year later, I can say that I have never been supportive of armed action, especially in the hurried way as was the case of Chechnya. As a soldier I had to carry out orders, however," he told journalists in Moscow Thursday.

According to Grachev, the decision to send troops and use force in Chechnya was not an easy one. "This issue had been discussed at numerous Russian Security Council meetings," he said.

Grachev emphasized that the Russian leaders and his ministry made numerous attempts at resolving the Chechen crisis peacefully. He admitted, however, that more efforts should have been invested in this activity.

Grachev reminded his audience that, with the Russian president's permission, he had a meeting with Dzhokhar Dudayev in the Ingush village of Sleptsovskaya shortly before troops were sent to Chechnya. "This was the last attempt at a peaceful solution," he said.

Grachev told Dudayev then that the Russian leaders had decided to send troops to Chechnya unless the illegal and unconstitutional decisions made by the republic's leaders were called off. But Dudayev made it plain that he could not change anything, Grachev said.

Demonstrators Rally on Anniversary

LD1112090195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chechen Interior Minister Khamid Inalov has called on the republic's citizens not to stage any rallies. Speaking on Groznyy Television late in the evening on 10 December, he said that internal affairs bodies would not allow any unauthorized meetings or other events to take place in Groznyy city center. However, by all accounts, the minister's appeal has been ignored. ITAR-TASS reports that since the early morning, demonstrators have been converging on Freedom Square in front of the former presidential palace in central Groznyy. They are gathering for a rally devoted to the anniversary of the dispatch of federal forces to Chechnya. The military authorities and local militia personnel are not taking any action against them. However, only people with residence permits for Groznyy are being allowed into Groznyy, including the city center.

Missile Warhead Used for Groznyy Explosion

LD1012113395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1120 GMT 10 Dec 95

[By Sharip Asuyev and Sergey Trofimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, December 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Terrorists used the charge of a guided missile from an air defence system for an explosion committed in downtown Groznyy in front of the territorial administration of federal executive bodies in the Chechen Republic on December 4.

These findings were made by experts on Sunday who participated in investigating the blast, as a result of which five civilians died and 64 were wounded.

Incidentally, this charge was dismantled some ten years ago. This means, as an expert claimed in an interview with ITAR-TASS, that it was either stolen long ago, or from an army depot where it waited for its destruction.

Zakayev "Seriously" Injured In Shooting

LD1112101295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0923 GMT 12 Dec 95

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Sergey Trofimov and Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] GROZNYY, 11 December (ITAR-TASS) — On 10 December Akhmed Zakayev, a member of the Chechen delegation at the talks in Groznyy, was fired on and seriously wounded by unidentified men. The incident occurred on the road leading to Urus-Martan, not far from a guard post manned by federal forces. This was announced in an official statement from the press service of the joint command of federal forces in Chechnya which was broadcast on Groznyy TV today. The statement says that a number of people escorting Zakayev were killed or wounded. The firing came from infantry weapons and grenade launchers. Servicemen who arrived on the scene detained Akhmed Zakayev and his escort of militants and took them all away. An investigation has been launched.

The press service of the command of federal forces is refusing to release any further details.

Akhmed Zakayev is also well known in Chechnya as a field commander. He was minister of culture in Dudayev's government.

Chechen Restoration in Disaster

MK0912124995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 8 Dec 95 p 4

[Report by SEGODNYA: "Investment Losses in Chechnya Have Amounted to 10 Billion Rubles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to information received from the Russian Federation Construction Ministry, the overall damage done to the builders in the restoration zone of the Chechnya Republic (mostly in Groznyy) adds up to about 10 billion rubles, out of which some 4-5 billion "have been lost" as a result of robbers' attacks on storage facilities and stealing of over 110 trucks with cargo. Moreover, two sewer water works, reconstructed earlier in the republic's capital, were destroyed again.

By now, 10 out of 12 sewer plants, 10 municipal boiler houses, and a heat supply network of the Groznyy Heat and Electric Power Plant have been reconstructed; the Starosuzhensk, Chernorechensk, and Goytinsk water intakes have been brought into operation. Yet, according to Anatoliy Saloshin, head of the Construction Ministry Main Directorate for Special-Purpose Construction Work, the workers have not been able to launch the heat and electric power plant itself so far because it is mined and is being continuously shelled by the Chechen side.

Anatoliy Saloshin said that cases when construction workers are taken hostage for ransom are becoming more frequent, with 20 workers having been killed already. In other words, a safety system for workers and construction facilities is virtually nonexistent in the restoration zone. Despite such working conditions, the construction workers are not allowed to carry individual weapons. The construction workers blame their troubles on the federal government, failing to meet its own commitments.

A further aggravation of the disastrous situation in which the peacekeeping construction workers are finding themselves can obviously lead to their massive flee from the republic. Numerous organizations have already started suspending restoration work until better times.

Soskovets Departs for Khabarovsk To Attend Meeting

LD0912094395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0551 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By Sergey Borovkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY December 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets, who is currently on a working tour of the Far East, left here for Khabarovsk by air on Saturday morning to attend a meeting of the administration chiefs of territories and regions of the Far East.

On Friday, Soskovets discussed the problems of eliminating the aftermath of emergency situations in the region with the leadership of the Kamchatka regional administration.

As is known, more than 200 families in the regional centre of the Kamchatka Peninsula had to abandon their ravaged houses when a cyclone hit the Far East on November 8-9.

Last night, Soskovets, together with government delegation members, inspected the half-ruined buildings.

The government has allocated 20,000 million rubles for the compensation for the damage and for the purchase of new flats. However, according to the latest estimates by experts of the Ministry for Emergency Situations, about 200,000 million rubles are necessary for these purposes.

Leaves Khabarovsk for Chita

LD1012114495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 10 Dec 95

[By Boris Savelyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KHABAROVSK, December 10 (ITAR-TASS) — First Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Oleg Soskovets, on his working visit to the Far East region, left Khabarovsk for Chita. On Saturday the vice premier took part in a meeting of heads of administrations of the region's areas and territories, met the leaders of the Far Eastern military district, got informed about the progress in search for the lost TU-154 air-liner, visited the House of Veterans in Khabarovsk.

Heads of ministries and departments, accompanying Oleg Soskovets, had discussed the most acute economic problems with the local authorities, took decisions, aimed at stabilisation of situation in the region.

Khabarovsk Governor Calls For 'Far East Republic'

MM1112092195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Dec 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Dialogue With Political Pressure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with journalists, Khabarovsk Kray Administration Head Viktor Ishayev voiced the idea of creating a Far East Republic. He does not rule out the possibility that this question will be raised at the very next session of the council of the "Far East and Transbaykal" interregional economic cooperation association.

Viktor Ishayev, chairman of the association's council, says that the motive for such a provocative demarche is the fact that, in his opinion, the federal organs of power allow unequal rights and powers for the krays and oblasts located in the east of the country, compared with the Federation's other components. He believes that the republics that make up Russia are in a more privileged position than the krays and oblasts.

There is nothing mysterious about this demarche by the governor of the region on the Amur just before the New

Year. Even Ishayev himself, who always used to reject the idea of creating a Far East Republic, believes that this step is just a means of pressuring Moscow. How else, he says, can we prove to the government that the Far East needs special treatment by the center because of its geopolitical position?

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has been told by the Russian Federation Presidential Staff's Administration for Work With the Territories that it has analyzed the situation in the Far East region. Ishayev's concern is understandable, Sergey Samoylov, the administration's deputy chief, said, since the situation with regard to electricity and rail transport tariffs negates the efforts to stabilize the region's economy. But this problem cannot be resolved in a single instant, and a competent dialogue with the government is needed. It is all the more strange to tackle it by political methods, by reviving the ideas of administrative isolation. At difficult moments, however, Sergey Samoylov said, politicians frequently recall old arguments. Today, according to analysts' information, there is neither the legal basis for creating a Far East Republic nor real forces capable of realizing this idea. Isolationist sentiments exist neither in the Transbaykal region, nor in Amur Oblast, nor in Magadan. The statements about the Far East Republic are most likely an attempt to draw the center's attention to really serious problems and a "distinctive form of dialogue" with Moscow.

Tatar Party Opposes Electing Tatars to State Duma

LD1012185795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, Dec 10 (INTERFAX-Eurasia) — Residents of Tatarstan (the Volga region) must not be elected to the State Duma, Chairman of the Tatar Public Center Marat Mulyukov told INTERFAX-Eurasia.

He said that no one should be surprized by the boycott declared on parliamentary elections by the Tatar national organizations. "The republic has the Declaration of Sovereignty and the constitution, which means that we are not citizens of Russia," he said.

"We cannot understand why our leaders have agreed to hold parliamentary elections. The State Duma has nothing to do with us," he said.

In his opinion, relations between Tatarstan and Russia must be based on agreements. He also thinks that representatives of Tatarstan must not be elected to the Federation Council and only attend its sessions as observers.

Commenting on the Chechen events, he said that the Russian leaders must remove the troops from Chechnya and allow the Chechen people to solve their problems on their own.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Cancels Eight Loans-for-Shares Auctions

MK1012063095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Dec 95 p 3

[AFI report: "Yeltsin Scraps Loans-for-Shares Auctions Involving Shares of 8 Strategic Enterprises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Boris Yeltsin has called off loans-for-shares auctions involving the shares of eight enterprises of "strategic importance to the country's national security." Under the edict signed by the president on 7 December, auctions for the shares of four aircraft construction enterprises — the Sukhoy OKB [Experimental Design Bureau] (25 percent), the Ulan-Ude Production Association (13 percent), the Arsenevskiy Aircraft Company (25 percent), and the Irkutsk Aircraft Production Association — were called off. Also called off were loans-for-shares auctions for the Far East Shipping Company (one of Russia's largest) and the "NOSTA" joint-stock company (Orsko-Khalilovskiy Metallurgic Combine). The president has also decided against holding a repeat auction for shares of the "Tekhsnabeksport" joint-stock company — one of the leading Russian trade associations specializing, among other things, in uranium shipments — and the Zapadno-Sibirskiy Metallurgic Combine, which is a major producer of ferrous metals. Blocks of shares of these two enterprises were withdrawn from auction on 17 November owing to an absence of bids. The total starting value of the blocks of shares of these enterprises, according to experts, topped $60 million. According to Alfred Kokh, temporary acting chairman of the Russian Federation Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Administration of State Property], auctions in which the shares of eight enterprises were transferred in trust earned the [state] budget more than 4.5 trillion rubles.

Banks Engaged in 'War' Over Access to State Property

MK1012075695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Rustam Narzikulov: "Banking War Receiving New Impetus. ONEKSIMbank and 'Menatep' Have Denied Registration to 'Rossiyskiy Kredit' and Consortium-2"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian banks keep on delivering blows against their competitors, and at the same time, against the reputation of the banking system as a whole. The largest contestant (in volume of assets) for state blocks of shares — ONEKSIMbank — is currently involved in a pledge scandal.

According to a statement by the press service of "Rossiyskiy Kredit," on 4 December bank representatives were denied access to the premises of ONEKSIMbank, authorized by the GKI [State Property Committee] to accept applications. "Rossiyskiy Kredit" intended to submit the papers necessary to participate in the auction of shares of the "Sidanko" oil company. However, its application was not accepted. The reason for the rejection of the documents, it follows from an ONEKSIMbank statement, was its failure to transfer an advance payment in due time.

Under the terms of the auction, 12 November 1995 was designated as the deadline for transferring the advance payment. "Rossiyskiy Kredit" argues that it had a right to transfer the money to the account of the auction organizers at a later date, since the date of the auction was postponed from 17 November to 7 December. Opponents of "the unfair distribution of state blocks of shares" were dealt another blow yesterday. "Menatep" bank, the GKI-designated organizer of the investment tender and pledge auction of "YUKOS" oil company shares, turned down the application of a consortium made up of "Rossiyskiy Kredit," Inkombank, and Alfabank.

According to a "Menatep" bank spokesman, the consortium deposited $82 million of the $350 million required to participate in the investment tender (33 percent of "YUKOS" shares) and "submitted a certificate as to where the treasury bills are deposited, both their own and those of their clients." In the end, "Menatep" rejected this application.

Then the consortium submitted the papers to participate in the pledge auction (45 percent of "YUKOS" shares). The latter application was not registered either, since only participants in the investment tender are admitted to the auction.

Meanwhile, Anatoliy Chubays and the State Property Committee have issued no reaction thus far to the statement by "Rossiyskiy Kredit" President Vitaliy Malkin on the allegedly illegal moves by ONEKSIMbank. A wait-and-see attitude has been taken by Aleksandr Livshits, an aide to the president, trying to steer clear of contacts with the conflicting banks.

The banking war is nearing a point that could prove highly detrimental to such a psychologically sensitive thing as the system of lending institutions. Those who failed to contest "Sidanko" and "YUKOS" will be unlikely to swallow the rejections by ONEKSIMbank and "Menatep" without a word.

For them, agreeing with the conclusions of the GKI would be tantamount to acknowledging their defeat in the feud with their larger rivals. The banking community's clientele would not overlook this, either. Therefore, a long-term prognosis for a continued war over state property can be made with a great deal of certainty.

Chubays on Results of 1995 Privatization Program

MM1112151595 Moscow TRUD in Russian 9 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Lyudmila Nikolayeva: "Auctions Proved Profitable"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the complexity of organizing the first currency auctions and shares-for-loans and investment tender by the end of the year they have produced good results, Anatoliy Chubays, first vice premier of the government, noted. He stated that the state treasury will receive 8.7 trillion rubles as a result of privatization in 1995. He said that without the revenue from privatization the state budget in 1995 would not have had those trillions which have been used to pay pensions and finance the Army and the military-industrial complex. At the same time the vice premier admitted that the first four months of 1995 were a failure for privatization "for well-known cadre reasons." He had in mind Vladimir Polevanov, former chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, whose activity ran counter to the government's course.

The first vice premier acknowledged that critics rightly say that there has been a certain haste in privatization and that some questions have not been properly worked out in the law, but "the Russian Government cannot take years over this process because the money is needed now."

It has to be noted that a contributory factor here is the tough line of the Russian President, who is constantly demanding that the privatizers top up the budget by stipulated amounts.

Foreign Trade Official Cited on Home Market Protection

MK0812134695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Elmar Murtazayev: "Nation's Profitable Enterprises Deserve Protection. Russia Loses $3 Billion Annually Through Western Restrictions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Protection of the Russian home market keynoted yesterday's session of the Ministry of

Foreign Economic Relations collegium. Deputy Minister Mikhail Sarafanov stated upon its completion that virtually all participants agreed that protection measures in foreign trade are supposed to create favorable conditions for profitable Russian industries rather than to be used "endlessly" to artificially support unprofitable economic sectors.

As the deputy minister put it, protection of the home market should be considered in the light of measures in support of finished product export. Mr. Sarafanov explained that enterprises producing competitive products for export and the home market should be reliably protected from unfair competition of foreign producers of the same commodities. The deputy minister pointed out that measures to protect the home market should be temporary and thus be aimed at creating a favorable climate for the completion of the structural reform in promising economic sectors.

Mr. Sarafanov listed among the main problems plaguing the tariff commission and the Russian Federation government commission on protective measures a "primitive" psychology of a number of heads of Russian enterprises, who often view government commissions as a ploy for edging foreign competitors from the market. He recalled in this connection that, under its obligations to the World Trade Organization, Russia under no circumstances should follow a protectionist policy toward uncompetitive Russian producers.

The ministry expert remembered that, unlike its Western partners, Russia has not resorted up to date to tough restrictive measures in foreign trade. According to the ministry's data, the European Union alone is currently conducting 14 antidumping investigations into Russian export. All in all, ministry experts have calculated, the Russian Federation is annually losing $2.5-3 billion in hard currency export earnings through restrictive measures on the part of Western countries.

Shokhin Addresses Students on Economic Recovery

MK0812133095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Elmar Murtazayev: "Aleksandr Shokhin is Confident the Present Government Will Lead Country to Economic Growth. Growth, One of NDR Leaders Thinks, Is Attainable 'in the Immediate Future'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The year 1996 may mark a turning point in the decline tendency in the Russian economy, stated Aleksandr Shokhin, one of the leaders of the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] movement Moscow branch addressing Plekhanov National Economy Academy students. Economic recovery, one of the chief developers of the movement's campaign program is convinced, is not only "possible in principle" but also attainable in the immediate future.

To prove his proposition, Mr. Shokhin argued that the main tasks facing the government have radically changed over the past two years. For example, while a year ago the key problem was to overcome the downswing, now the task is to pull out of the industrial depression. Therefore, the NDR leader thinks, a zero economic growth is possible as soon as next year — if the present economic policy remains unchanged, Mr. Shokhin added.

Mr. Shokhin thinks that the main issue of Russian reforms is to determine the state's role in a market economy. According to the former economics minister, the NDR slogan, "a strong state in a liberal reform," takes the fullest account of the realities of Russian society. The realities are such: the starting stage of Russian reforms (liberalization) is over, and the creation of conditions for economic growth are on the agenda.

Concerning the participation in the movement of many leading government figures (primarily of Premier Victor Chernomyrdin), Mr. Shokhin stated that this circumstance is a strong aspect of this movement. Using "these people," the NDR movement "can and must" influence the government policy, and Mr. Shokhin regards the premier as the movement's representative in the process of shaping the country's economic policy.

Economic Center Cited on Falling Performance Indicators

LD0812184595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Working Center for Economic Reforms, under the auspices of the Russian Government, arranges briefings for journalists on a monthly basis to give them the latest data on the country's current economic situation.

According to the data gathered by the center investigators, during the second half of this year the Russian Government failed to surmount the consequences of the inflationary wave of the end of 1994 and the start of 1995. The real standard of life of the population was affected by this in the first place, and as a result of the inflationary upsurge, the Russian citizens saw their real incomes and wages decline by 18-20 percent.

However, the population's incomes have not gone down over the past few months. As for macro-economic indicators, the November results show a one percent decline in Russia's GDP relative to October.

The overall increase in the GDP amounts to minus four percent this year, relative to 1994. Industrial output in November has not changed when compared with October. Overall, a three percent decline in industrial output is expected in 1995, relative to 1994.

The Working Center for Economic Reforms says that these figures give grounds for being optimistic. Taking account of the changes in the GDP and industrial output indicators over the past four years of economic reforms, it is possible to conclude that the decline in output is bottoming out, approximating the zero mark. (video shows people round a conference table]

[Begin S. Pavlenko recording, director of the Working Center for Economic Reforms, identified by caption] All in all, though it can hardly be called a grand success, it is close to success. [end recording]

International Affairs

Defense Minister Cited on Military Presence in Balkans

LD0812131595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIROVOGRAD, Dec 8 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine's peacekeeping presence in the Balkans will be determined by what it can afford, Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov told Interfax in Kirovograd late on Thursday.

The troops, currently funded by the United Nations, will be on their own once operations are transferred to a NATO-led coalition.

Shmarov did not specify to what extent the force will be trimmed but said that a Ukrainian peacekeeping force will by all means pursue the political goal of continuing its presence in the former Yugoslavia.

According to Shmarov, Ukraine could be compensated by other countries having their peacekeepers in the Balkans "in return for our air transport services."

Shmarov said that the talks on making the Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion subordinate to the French command do not signify change of Ukraine's policy. "This is just search for a mechanism of cooperation with NATO member nations," he explained.

Shmarov said that this search fits the Ukrainian policy of cooperating with the widest possible range of countries. He said that Pentagon and State Department officials had asked him the same question and he had given the same answer.

Shmarov attended an exercise in Kirovograd Thursday to handle a disaster resulting from transportation of nuclear warheads from Ukraine.

240th Battalion To Remain in Bosnia

LD0812190195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1540 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian Armed Forces' 240th Special Battalion will probably remain on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and its new mission will be to promote restoration work, transport humanitarian cargoes, and render assistance to local residents, a Ukrainian Defense Ministry representative informed UNIAN.

According to him, the Ukrainian battalion will not be taking part in combat action, and preliminary discussions are going on regarding the issue of its being in the French sector.

UNIAN learned at the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry that the issue of its subordination was being discussed at the London conference on implementing the peace agreement in Bosnia.

Kiev Ready To Fulfill Dayton Agreement

LD0912205295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2002 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Dec 9 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukraine is ready to take an active part in final settlement of the Balkan crisis, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told an international conference on fulfillment of the peace agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina underway in London.

Udovenko praised the results of Dayton talks held by presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia, sources at the ministry's information department told Interfax - Ukraine. He said that Ukraine will participate in fulfillment of civilian aspects of the Dayton peace agreement.

The minister stressed Ukraine's desire to abide by the sanctions of the U.N. security Council against Yugoslavia, and help economic restorations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Government, China Sign Joint Declaration on Cooperation

LD0912095395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0448 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing, 5 Dec — China and Ukraine have agreed to bring the relations between the two countries to a new level of constructive partnership in the 21st century. A joint declaration on this was signed today after the completion of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's official visit to China.

The declaration signed by two heads of state underlined the commitment of the sides to oppose separatism in any form or shape. Beijing confirmed its recognition of and respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Kiev reiterated the invariability of its position concerning Taiwan, adding that it was an inseparable part of the Chinese territory, with the Chinese Government being its only legal government. The sides stressed the importance of cooperation against any kind of hegemonism, against policies from a position of strength, or the danger of the use of strength.

The document consolidates China and Ukraine's decision to boost political consultations at different levels and to coordinate their positions in maintaining peace and strengthening international security. One of the important provisions of the document is their mutual readiness to render political support in matters of maintaining and strengthening sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Beijing and Kiev agreed to expand and deepen information exchange programs in trade, economy, science, and technical areas. Machine-building, metallurgy, aviation, and the energy and chemical industries were singled out as priority areas for bilateral cooperation. Parliaments and public organizations will step up contacts.

The declaration says that the two countries will also cooperate in military and technical areas under the accords reached between the Chinese and Ukrainian defense ministries.

Kuchma Comments on China Visit, Departs

LD0812204695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, who was on a state visit in the People's Republic of China from 3 to 8 December, left for home today. Kuchma answered journalists' questions about his visit at the airport.

In particular, Leonid Kuchma said that from all points of view, the political, and especially the economic one, China is Ukraine's most important partner now, and one in which Ukraine is very interested. Leonid Kuchma emphasized that Ukraine had not yet made full use of its existing possibilities for developing more fruitful relations between the two countries.

Speaking about the conditions for the success of Chinese economic reforms, the head of the Ukrainian state noted that economic reforms had been introduced in China right away without destroying anything, and on the basis of a stable political system; while the political system is reformed at the same time as the economy. One may only expect normal development of economic relations in a stable society, Leonid Kuchma emphasized.

Defense Minister Stands Firm on Border With Romania

LD0812161495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIROVOGRAD, Dec 8 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The political dispute between Ukraine and Romania over the Black Sea isle of Zmeinyy can trigger a large-scale process of revising post-World War II borders, Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov told journalists in Kirovograd Thursday.

Shmarov said that Zmeinyy is irreversibly Ukrainian. He said that the isle is important for the country's defense. Anti-aircraft defense and radar units are stationed there.

"We must also carry out geological surveys of the isle and put it to economic uses because its shelf is rich in oil and gas," he said.

Shmarov recalled that Ukraine wants the provisions on restrictions of its forces under the treaty on conventional arms in Europe. [sentence as received]

Romanian Foreign Minister Theodor Melescanu said in the Romanian parliament on December 4 that the Ukrainian authorities refuse to hand back the isle of Zmeinyy and that if the talks with Ukraine fail, Romania will file a suit in the International Court.

Following that his Ukrainian counterpart Gennadiy Udovenko told Interfax-Ukraine that Melescanu's remarks amounted to territorial claims against Ukraine.

Envoy Recalled From Romania Over Dispute

LD0812232195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1621 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bucharest, 8 December — According to sources at the Ukrainian embassy in Bucharest, Oleksandr Chalyy, Ukraine's ambassador to Romania will be recalled to Kiev next week for consultations. This is because Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu said Romania would go to the International Court in The Hague if no mutually satisfactory outcome could be achieved concerning Zmeinyy island.

Romania considers that the protocol on the island's handover to the USSR in 1948 was signed under duress, so Ukraine's references to rights inherited from the former Soviet Union are invalid. Ukrainian foreign minister Hennadiy Udovenko, however, has described such statements as "territorial claims". Romania, according to its official representatives, is interested less in Zmeinyy island, which is no economic significance in itself, than in the adjacent Black Sea shelf, thought to contain gas and oil reserves.

Kuchma Comments on Romanian Claim to Zmeinyy

LD1012151695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1310 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — "I would not like to discuss the [Ostrov] Zmeinyy island issue, because, from my point of view, there is no such problem," Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told journalists today, commenting on the statement by

Romania's Foreign Minister Teodor Viorel Melescanu about Romania's intention to appeal to the International Court of Justice at The Hague to claim the Zmeinyy island in the Black Sea and the adjacent continental shelf. Kuchma said "the world, Europe first and foremost, is not going to revise the post-war borders."

Earlier, Yuriy Serheyev, chief of department at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, said Ukraine would regard a unilateral appeal to the International Court of Justice at The Hague as a unilateral act of laying claims on Ukraine.

The issue of the Zmeinyy island ownership was finally resolved in 1961 by the signing of the Romanian-Soviet treaty on friendship and cooperation and also the treaty on the state borders between the two countries, which were ratified by the Romanian parliament.

Defense Ministry Denies Report on Myrnyy Garrison

LD0812223195 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service has made public material on the IZVESTIYA newspaper's tendentious coverage of the situation in the Myrnyy military garrison in Crimea. As is well-known, until recently it had belonged to the Black Sea Fleet.

The journalist from the Moscow publication, not understanding the reasons for the complicated situation in which the residents of this settlement have found themselves, blamed the Ukrainian Defense Ministry leadership for everything. In truth, the current situation emerged as a result of hurried actions by the Russian side. Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, Ukrainian Navy commander, had frequently put a proposal to the leadership of the Russian Navy and the Black Sea Fleet on joint preparation for winter of garrisons being transferred to the Ukrainian national economy.

But it turned out entirely differently. Without any kind of agreement, the Myrnyy garrison was simply crossed off the Black Sea Fleet lists. For the Yevpatoriya town council, to which the garrison was to be transferred, this sudden acquisition was a surprise. In this situation Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov made a decision to render immediate assistance to the residents of Myrnyy from reserves designated to ensure the functioning of other Ukrainian Navy garrisons.

The material expresses the hope that, in accordance with accords between the Ukrainian and Russian Defense Ministries in Sochi, the process of transferring Black Sea Fleet facilities will proceed in a systematic and civilized way in future.

Official Meets Talbott in Budapest, Discusses Taxation

WS1112124395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0129 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Dec. 9. Ukraine is interested in the quick ratification in the U.S. Congress of agreements avoiding double taxation between the United States and Ukraine and on the mutual protection of investments, First Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko said after a meeting with U.S. Deputy State Secretary Strobe Talbott in Budapest.

Buteiko was in Budapest to attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of Organization and Security and Cooperation in Europe member states.

Talbott, for his part, said that the United States is closely watching the course of economic changes in Ukraine and attaches great importance to the privatization process as one of the most important conditions for establishing a market economy.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Elections Held in 45 Constituencies

LD1012110995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 10 Dec 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, December 10 (Itar-Tass) — Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine Ivan Yemets told Itar-Tass that elections to the Supreme Soviet are being held today in 45 constituencies of Ukraine. More than 380 candidates, 70 of them on party lists, will contend for deputy mandates.

The left forces form the most consolidated front. Communists have promoted 30 candidates, and socialists — 8. At the present parliament they have a parliamentary majority.

Most of the candidates are unknown to the general public. Prime Minister Yevgeniy Marchuk is an exception. According to many observers he is to win his deputy mandate easily.

Moroz Casts Vote in By-Election

LD1012144595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1310 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] — Even an additional 45 deputies will not affect the distribution of political forces in the Ukrainian Supreme

Council, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz told journalists at polling station No 11 of Pecherskiy constituency on 10 December.

In his opinion, "approximately half of the deputies have an active political stance in parliament; the other vote according to the situation," and therefore the arrival of a group of deputies in the Supreme Council of even one political orientation will not alter the situation there.

Oleksandr Moroz emphasized that "the propaganda campaign against parliament, which has been carried out over a considerable period, to a certain extent explains people's attitude to the elections." At the same time he expressed the hope that some deputies would still be elected. "The arrival of each one of them is desirable, because it will guarantee more stability in parliament," the Supreme Council chairman said.

Elections Valid in 18 Constituencies

LD1112112295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
0900 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — On 10 December, elections were announced valid in 18 out of the 45 constituencies where by-elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine were held. On average, 46 percent of the electorate cast their ballots, the Central Electoral Commission has told UNIAN.

Seven candidates have been elected people's deputies:

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk (83.71 percent); Poltava Region, Mirgorodskiy constituency 324.

Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk (72.94 percent); Crimea, Kerchenskiy constituency 31.

Ihor Franchuk, director of the joint-stock society "Center for Fuel and Energy Resources of Ukraine" (63.24 percent); his nearest rival was Zakharov (22.45 percent); Crimea, Yaltinskiy constituency 35.

President of "OLHaz" concern Oleh Ishchenko (64 percent); his nearest rival was Vasyl Onopenko, former Ukrainian minister of justice (11.6 percent); Chernovtsy Region, Pershotravnevyy constituency 432.

Mykola Slavov, president of the "Ukrrichflot" [Ukrainian river fleet] joint-stock shipping company; Kiev, Podolskiy constituency 13.

Heorhiy Shevchenko, pensioner and member of the Communist Party of Ukraine; Sevastopol, Leninskiy constituency 45.

Ivan Kyrylenko, first deputy chairman of the Dnepropetrovsk Region council; Dnepropetrovsk Region, Pavlogradskiy constituency 96.

Runoff elections will be held in 11 constituencies within two weeks. Seven members of the Communist Party of Ukraine, two members of the People's Movement [Rukh], one member each from the Christian Democratic Party, the Peasants' Party, the Party of Democratic Revival of Crimea, and the Socialist Party, as well as nonaffiliated candidates will stand in the runoffs.

Commenting on the results of the election in an interview with journalists, Ivan Yemets, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, said the elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine were announced valid in all the constituencies in Crimea and this, in his view, disproves the opinion that Crimean residents are separatists.

Holoseyevskiy constituency 4 [Kiev]: Oleh Korban, president of the "Mariam" corporation, and Yaroslav Fedorin, director general of the "Heopromresurs" investment company.

Industrialnyy constituency 7 [Kiev]: Roman Zvarych, political scientist and director of the Democratic Reform Center, and Nataliya Chanhuli, journalist supported by the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense.

Pechernskiy constituency 11 [Kiev]: Anatoliy Kovalenko, chairman of the Pechersk district council, and Volodymyr Shpundra, first deputy chief of the Ukrainian state department "Ukrametal" and member of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

Irpenskiy constituency 211, Kiev Region: Valeriy Khoroshkovskyy, director of small enterprise "Veneda Ltd," and Serhiy Buryak, chairman of the board of the "Brokbiznesbank" joint-stock bank.

Razdolnenskiy constituency 41, Crimea: Mykola Miroshnychenko, director of the "Novyy Rik" joint-stock society (37 percent), and Ihor Sharov, chairman of the board of the "Interhaz" joint-stock society (33 percent).

Sakskiy constituency 33, Crimea: Anatoliy Drobotov, chairman of the Lenin collective farm (37 percent), and Yuriy Kolesnykov, president of the international gas supply and building company "Kolesnykov-Kontinental" (24 percent).

Nakhimovskyy constituency 46, Sevastopol: Vadym Zachosov, chief of experimental shop of the "Parus" joint-stock company (45.8 percent), and Vasyl Kalytyuk, director-general of the "Foros" health resort (16.7 percent).

Kovpakovskiy constituency 344, Sumy Region: Volodymyr Petrenko, director of the region directorate of the national insurance company "Oranta" (36.5 percent), and Oleksandr Stetsenko, head of the physiotherapy department of the city hospital No. 4 (25.3 percent).

Zarechnyy constituency 343, Sumy Region: Leonid Mordovets, reader at the department of Ukrainian studies of Sumy State University (32 percent), and Eduard Kozin, reader at the department of finance of Sumy State University (18.4 per cent).

Uzhgorodskiy constituency 167, Transcarpathian Region: Serhiy Slobodyanyuk, deputy chairman of the Uzhgorod city council, and Nestor Shufrych, director general of the "West-Kotreyd" joint venture.

Korabelnyy constituency 284, Nikolayev Region: Serhiy Mayboroda, member of the Communist Party of Ukraine and chairman of the Nikolayev Region youth association, and Maksym Vynohradskyy, chief of the city board of internal affairs.

Elections have been announced valid in the following constituencies [with turnout percentage]:

Kiev:

Holoseyevskiy constituency (59.82)
Pecherskiy constituency (53.56)
Podolskiy constituency (58.6)
Industrialnyy constituency (51.74)

Republic of Crimea:

Kerchenskiy constituency (68.9)
Yaltinskiy constituency (58.9)
Razdolnenskiy constituency (63.0)
Sakskiy constituency (57.0)

Sevastopol:

Leninskiy constituency (54.4)
Nakhimovskiy constituency (51.0)
Dnepropetrovsk Region:
Pavlogradskiy constituency (71.4)

Kiev Region:

Irpenskiy constituency (55.0)

Nikolayev Region:

Korabelnyy constituency (53.4)

Poltava Region:

Mirgorodskiy constituency (64.76)

Sumy Region:

Kovpakovskiy constituency (50.8)

Chernovtsy Region:

Pershotravnevyy constituency (53.5)

Crimean Parliament Votes No Confidence in Franchuk

LD0812161195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1540 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol — At a plenary session on 8 December the Crimean Supreme Council passed a vote of no confidence in Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk. Seventy-three deputies voted for, eight voted against, four abstained, and six did not take part in the voting. A UNIAN correspondent reports this from Simferopol.

Commenting on this, Crimean Parliament Speaker Yevhen Suprunyuk told journalists that this decision was an unexpected one for him. However, he noted, the Crimean Supreme Council abides by Ukrainian laws.

Deputy Prime Minister Arkadiy Demydenko is now acting prime minister. Anatoliy Franchuk is on leave because he is standing as a candidate for deputy in the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

Franchuk: Vote May Cause Instability

LD0812220695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1820 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol — Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk, on a visit to Kerch, has said in a telephone conversation with journalists that the Crimean Supreme Council's move to vote no-confidence in him is "another attempt to cause instability in Crimea, discredit him as a candidate for people's deputy, and prevent him from being elected to the Supreme Council of Ukraine," a UNIAN correspondent reported from Simferopol.

Franchuk said the decision by the Crimean parliament session may aggravate relations between Crimea and Ukraine. "Any instability in our region may have a negative effect on the Ukrainian leadership's attitude toward Crimea. Instability has never contributed to the work of the state bodies and to relations between the different branches of power," he said.

The Crimean prime minister believes the decision by the Crimean deputies will only win him more votes during the by-election. He is convinced that "the people of Crimea share his positive assessment of what has been done by the government over this time."

The Franchuk-led government was formed in October 1994.

Kuchma Calls For Improvements in Fuel, Energy Sector

LD0812225595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, Dec 8 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma believes that it is necessary to take measures to improve the situation in the fuel and energy industry of the country.

Stability in the Ukrainian energy industry depends primarily on contacts with Russia, he told Interfax - Ukraine in Beijing Friday.

Russian and Ukrainian energy systems were disconnected Monday after the emergency shutdown of the first reactor at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant in Ukraine, and current frequency in the Ukrainian system fell to a critically low level.

"It is necessary to normalize dialogue with Russia," said Kuchma.

He also stressed the need to carry out an overall reform of the fuel and energy industry. "It is necessary to launch new reactors at the Khmelnitsky and Rovno nuclear power plants as soon as possible," he said. Kuchma also spoke in favor of upgrading the Dnieper hydroelectric plant. The World Bank decided in late October to provide Ukraine with $114 million for these purposes.

Kuchma described as "a positive fact" the initialling of a memorandum between Ukraine and the Group of Seven nations on the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. However, he said that it was made possible only after Ukraine firmly stated that it needs foreign aid to resolve all the issues relating to the closure.

Contaminated Area at Nuclear Power Plant Cleaned Up

LD0812212595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Dec 8 (Interfax - Ukraine) — A contaminated area was cleaned up at the Yuzhnoukrainskaya nuclear power plant in Ukraine Thursday.

A daily inspection discovered a leaking pipeline and a radioactive spot beneath it on December 3, Ukraine's State Atomic Committee told Interfax - Ukraine.

The incident rated 1 on the IFES scale.

Clean-up involved peeling and dumping the superficial layer of soil.

The committee said the region's epidemic control station classified the incident as local and unharmful. The personnel did not receive a hazardous dose of radiation. The area around was not contaminated.

Zaporozhye Reactor Shutdown Halves Power to Crimea

LD1012120595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1657 GMT 9 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 9 Dec — Lower electricity consumption, tighter energy saving controls, and debt reduction is the only way to lessen the severity of the problem of power supply, reads an address by the Crimean government to the peninsula's business leaders and public at large today.

It goes on to say that the stoppage of a Zaporozhye nuclear power plant reactor has caused power supply to Crimea alone to be cut by 100 MW, down 50 percent. The government called on the residents of Crimea to show restraint at the same time as searching for a "non-confrontational solution to the problems that arise."

Plan for Conversion of Former Missile Sites

LD0812203995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kirovograd, December 8 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Within a year or maximum two, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry shall make a list of all objects and draw up a plan for the use of the infrastructure of the 43-rd rocket army after the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukraine. A statement to this effect was made by Ukraine's Defence Minister Valeriy Shmarov at a conference in the Kirovograd regional administration yesterday.

V. Shmarov attended in Kirovohrad yesterday the exercises of the elimination of an accident in transportation of nuclear ammunition from Ukraine. The Minister visited the so-called object "C", where nuclear arms are stocked and an aircraft repair works is located.

The Minister said that "big national resources are kept underground", meaning silo-based launchers, "therefore we shall not simply destroythem, but use them rationally". V. Shmarov spoke out in favour of turning over the military infrastructure and training grounds for use in the people's economy, "whereever possible".

Speaking about the aircraft repair works, Valeriy Shmarov expressed the following opinion: "Even radical changes can be made - a change of the type of ownership. This is not a matter of principle - whether an enterprise is under the Defence Ministry or in other hands. The main thing is that there should be work places, and industrial capacities should not stand idle".

Kirovograd Regional Administration Head Mykola Sukhomlyn told the conference that Ukraine's Defence Ministry had already turned over to the regional economy a training ground of nearly 3600 hectares, in an area where extraction of gold and uranium may be possible.

V. Shmarov assured that the Defence Ministry will repay before the end of the year a 50 billion karbovanets debt of the military units stationed in the region for electricity and foodstuffs. At the same time he noted that the debt of the Finance Ministry to the Ministry of Defence now stands at 16 trillion karbovanets.

Economic Issues

New Coal Industry Minister Interviewed

WS0812132295 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Dec 95 p 6

["Exclusive interview" with Serhiy Vasylovych Polyakov, newly appointed Ukrainian coal industry minister, by Lyudmyla Hordeyeva; place and date not given: "I Count on Support of Miners" — first paragraph is KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **I had to congratulate Serhiy Polyakov, newly elected Ukrainian coal industry minister, twice: On the occasion of his nomination to his position, and the successful defense of his candidate dissertation. Naturally, the first question was on his professional coal industry experience.**

[Polyakov] I was not only born in Donbass. All my working career, until 1990, was connected with the "Torezantratsit" Production Association. My last place of work was the "Volynskaya" mine, whose work collective elected me its director in January 1989. Later, I was party committee first secretary, and since 1990 I worked as city council chairman.

[Hordeyeva] Have you drafted your personal program for the resolution of the crisis in the coal industry?

[Polyakov] The Ukrainian mining industry has been in need of reform for a long time. The cornerstone of my program is the independence of mines. However, this process cannot be left without control. Perhaps there should be supervisory bodies at the regional level.

The scourge of our coal industry is high costs of extracted fuel. The maintenance of the social sphere — preschool children's establishments, sports complexes, houses of rest, and so on — is quite expensive. Therefore, the transfer of social and cultural sites to the balance sheet of local soviets must become the first step.

The system of coal sales must also be subject to profound reform. Mutual relations between independent mines and sales organizations must be based on contracts. This will trigger changes in the structure of our sector. Mines will come to the foreground. Production associations incorporating them will now be in the background and their functions will slightly be changed.

[Hordeyeva] Opponents of mines' "sovereignty" stress that these few independent enterprises provide inconsolable operational statistics.

[Polyakov] These mines became independent without being properly prepared for the future. At the time, it was necessary to take care of developing new mine faces and horizons. [lavy i gorizonty]. Therefore, when mines become independent, the issues of their prospective development must be resolved at the state level.

[Hordeyeva] Hence, this issue cuts both ways. Unpromising mines should not pin their hopes on state support....

[Polyakov] Yes, one of the most painful issues is closing down unpromising mines. This should have been done long ago. If we do not do this now, the process would become chaotic. However, there are people behind each enterprise.

[Hordeyeva] Serhiy Vasylovych, I think that your position is close to the program for reform in the coal industry drafted by the Donetsk Oblast Council.

[Polyakov] Indeed, we have identical positions on a variety of issues. The Coal Ministry, however, has its own program for sectoral reform. It was recently discussed at a Cabinet of Ministers' meeting. It was agreed that separate tenets of the program must be redrafted. We intend to deal with this issue closely.

[Hordeyeva] Are there plans for state subsidies to the coal industry?

[Polyakov] Of course. But it is still necessary to specify in which form they must be issued. This should be done before the Supreme Council approves budget expenditures.

[Hordeyeva] On whose support do you count?

[Polyakov] I count on no one but miners' support.

[Hordeyeva] Will the labor movement oppose you?

[Polyakov] I have had contacts with the labor movement over six years and there has never been any antagonism. In addition, the primary objective of the miners' labor movement is to improve workers' life and, I assure you, the ministry's objective is the same.

Belarus

Russian Defense Minister Grachev Pays Visit

Reiterates Stand on NATO Expansion

LD0912180495 Moscow NTV in Russian
1600 GMT 9 Dec 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast; presented by Mikhail Osokin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev was visiting Belarus today. President Lukashenka had managed to announce beforehand that Belarus defends Russia's western flank. Lukashenka is constantly reminding Russian generals: In your Smolensk area you have no troops apart from the Belarusian Army.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Russian and Belarusian defense ministries coordinated their positions on 18 questions, and today signed a number of final protocols, including on joint patrolling within the air defense system, on procedure for transferring officers from one army to the other, on joint use of the military industrial complex, and on the timetable for withdrawal of Russian Federaton strategic forces from Belarus in 1996. The negotiations, the sides agreed, were useful in all respects.

[Begin Grachev recording] Regarding how to utilize the... [pauses] We instructed our experts — it is fashionable to talk about experts at the moment, you know; to start with I called them experts [English pronunciation], but that is not right, they are experts [Russian pronunciation] — within the period of one month — in general we are only using foreign words recently... [sentence incomplete as heard] [end recording]

[Correspondent] The sides also coordinated their attitude to NATO's expansion eastwards.

[Begin Grachev recording] Russia's opposition remains the same as before. We are against the expansion of NATO to the east. If NATO expands eastwards, Russia has the right to take all appropriate measures. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Pavel Grachev stressed in particular that creating a system of real collective security in the east will be conducted now within the framework of bilateral relations, today with Belarus, and then after the new year the Russian defense minister will make a similar visit to Kazakhstan.

During the visit to Belarus, Belarus Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir told Pavel Grachev that the latter was rarely in such an important strategic sector as Belarus. Grachev promised to take note of that.

President Favors Military Cooperation

LD0812213395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2001 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Dec 8 (Interfax-West) — Military cooperation between Belarus and Russia would aim at bringing the two countries closer, Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko told the Uruchye military garrison today.

"Otherwise, the two countries' armies will get into an even more difficult situation," Lukashenko said, adding that "an understanding of this issue" had been reached during the official visit of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to the Belarussian capital Minsk on December 8.

Lukashenko made it clear that he was not satisfied with the implementation of the earlier agreements with Russia on cooperation in the military and military-technical areas. "Unlike Russia, Belarus is carrying out its obligations fully with regard to these treaties," he said.

"This misbalance should righten itself" following the talks with Grachev, Lukashenko said.

With regard to NATO's extension eastward, Lukashenko said he did not agree that this was a way to strengthen peace on the continent. "National armed forces will remain the guarantor of the republic's independence and sovereignty," Lukashenko said.

Air Defense Troops To Patrol Jointly

LD0912180995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1616 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Dec 9 (Interfax-West) — Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Air Defense Troops Viktor Prudnikov told Interfax in Minsk today that units of the Russian and Belarusian air defense troops would carry out joint military patrolling from April 1996. "Such an agreement was reached with Belarus during the official visit of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to Minsk on December 8-9," Prudnikov said. Prudnikov said the Belarussian air defense system was one of the best air defense systems of the former USSR. He said he explained that by Belarus managing to preserve and maintain the air defense system on the whole, including aviation and rocket complexes. "Joint military patrolling will be carried out in order to ensure security of both countries," Prudnikov said. Russia and Belarus also agreed in Minsk that Belarussian air defense troops will use Russian training sites for military exercises.

Agreement Signed on Missile Withdrawal

LD0912175995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 9 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Dec 9 (Interfax-West) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and his Belarussian counterpart Leanid Maltsaw signed 18 bilateral agreements and protocols on military and military-technical cooperation in the Belarus capital Minsk Saturday. The documents include an agreement on Russian strategic missiles withdrawal from Belarus, an agreement on joint planning of regional security both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of the Commonwealth Collective Security Treaty, an agreement on the use of Belarussian military airfields in the interests of Russia and Belarus, and a plan of bilateral military-technical cooperation for 1996. The sides made a schedule for withdrawal of the remaining two Russian regiments equipped with 19 nuclear missiles to Russia, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Strategic Missile Troops Col.Gen. Igor Sergeyev told Interfax. There were nine Russian regiments with 89 missiles stationed on Belarussian territory. Seven of them have been withdrawn to Russia within the past two years, four withdrawn regiments were put on combat duty in Russia. Under the Minsk agreements, the last strategic missile will be withdrawn from Belarus in September 1996. It will take several months more to withdraw equipment and property of the Russian troops from Belarus.

Lukashenka: 8 Percent of Missiles Remain

LD0812183395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Larisa Lazar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, December 8 (Belta) - Belarus's military cooperation with Russia in technological and political fields is free from any problems, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenka said today, emerging from his hour-long meeting with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

He said Russian missile troops are withdrawing from Belarus ahead of schedule, with only eight per cent of missiles remaining in Belarus by now.

Russian troops have most of 1996 to meet the withdrawal deadline.

Grachev his ministry's delegation was going on their first official visit to a CIS member state [sentence as received].

The delegation includes all top commanders and department heads of the Russian Defence Ministry and of the General Staff.

The high-level representation reflects motivation of the sides to strike an extensive package of military accords.

Lukashenka said he totally backed the agenda of the talks.

Grachev stressed to Lukashenka that Russia places special weight with bilateral accords with Belarus, including on their part in the CIS collective security pact.

Grachev told reporters that it is time the talking around the pact gave place to acting.

"We have decided to start a very serious cooperation in this area, including with Belarusia," Grachev said.

Grachev and Lukashenka emphasised in their statements that their discussion of the collective security pact centered on bilateral issues.

Late 1996 Set as Missile Pullout Deadline

LD0812203895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka speaking after talks with the Russian defense chief said Russia was expected to pull out nuclear weapons from Belarus by the end of 1996 as planned. He said Russian missile forces were being withdrawn ahead of schedule.

The president said there were still two regiments of missile forces and 18 long range nuclear missiles.

IF Note: Commander of Russian Missile Forces Igor Sergeyev said seven out of nine missile regiments and 71 out of 89 missiles had already been pulled out with four regiments put in combat duty in Russia itself.

On the prospects of Moscow-Minsk military cooperation, Lukashenka reported no problems in military cooperation within the framework of the CIS collective security agreement.

At the same time, he spoke of being dissatisfied by how it was being implemented. He said the deal (signed by nine CIS states expect Turkmenistan, Moldova and Ukraine) was yet to be put fully in place.

For his part, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said his department was setting great store by military cooperation with Belarus both within the framework of the CIS collective security treaty and on a bilateral basis.

He said Lukashenka gave his backing to the agenda of the two-day meeting by senior Russian and Belarussian defense department officials in Minsk.

He said the two departments were due to sign a package of military cooperation agreements on Saturday.

Regional security, arms procurement and disposal of old ammunition are on the agenda of talks in Minsk on Friday.

Grachev will also discuss if the Russian army could use local army infrastructures, including military airports, to ensure regional security together with Belarus.

Hryb: Parliament Likely To Be Elected

LD1012165795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Dec 10 (Interfax-West) — The repeat parliamentary elections are likely to fill the vacancies required for making Belarusian parliament a full-fledged body, Belarusian parliament chairman Mechyslaw Hryb told electors in Minsk. Repeat elections are likely to fill 40-45 vacancies, he said. Earlier, the Belarusian voters had elected 139 deputies. At least 174 deputies (two thirds) must be elected to make the parliament a legitimate body. "The election of some 40 deputies is sufficient for the parliament's work but will not guarantee its long life," said Hryb. The current legislature has about 20 representatives of the presidential and executive authority, he went on to say. Given this, the parliament will work for a long time only if it is loyal to the president, he said. "If relations between the newly-elected parliament and the president worsen, the president will always have an opportunity to make the representatives of the presidential and executive authority resign, thus depriving the parliament of the quorum and rendering it illegitimate," said Hryb.

"To prevent this, the first thing the new parliament must do is to amend the law on the deputies for ensuring that a decision shall be considered adopted if it is supported by 50 percent of the deputies, not by two thirds of the deputies as envisaged in the current law," said Hryb.

Hryb: TV Programs Prevented People From Voting

WS1112092195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0812 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On December 10 Belarusian television broadcasted six feature films and the same number of entertaining shows which is far more than usual. The total time of these telecasts made up over 80 percent of the whole broadcasting - almost 14 hours out of 17. On the two previous Sundays — November 26 and December 3 — such telecasts accounted for no more than 30 percent.

At his last press conference, Myacheslaw Hryb, the chairman of the old Supreme Soviet, defined this selection of telecasts for the election day as "a crime which prevents people from performing their civic duty."

Required Number of Deputies Elected to New Supreme Soviet

WS1112090295 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, 10 December, was really a momentous day for our Republic — the second round of the by-elections of deputies to the new Belarusian parliament and local soviets was held. First of all, the question as to whether we would finally have the highest legislative body able to work was to be resolved. To achieve this, it was necessary to elect at least 35 candidates for deputies in the second round. It is a pleasure to report that this task was carried out successfully. According to preliminary unofficial reports presented by the Central Electoral Commission, 59 deputies to the parliament were elected in the second round. The electoral race thus ended; we have a new parliament able to work; and I wish you success in your work for the benefit of the people and motherland.

Moldova

Parliament To Offer Autonomy to Dniester

LD0812220295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1446 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chisinau, 8 Dec — The Moldovan Parliament has examined a draft law on special status for towns on the left bank of the Dniester River and recommended that it be published in the press. The document was drafted by Moldovan experts and offered to Tiraspol during talks on the Dniester issue. These talks, sponsored by the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and special representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, are now in their second year.

Moldovan Parliamentary Chairman Petru Lucinski believes that people living on the left bank will reject Tiraspol's intransigence when they have seen what is being offered to them: Broad autonomy within a unitary Moldovan state. He said the decision to publish the draft had the backing of the president and prime minister. During today's parliamentary session deputies also examined the Dniester's proposed solution — the "Treaty on Joint Powers of Moldova and the Dniester Moldovan Republic."

Chisinau's special status draft will create a Dniester autonomous republic within Moldova, with its own legislature, state symbols, and three official languages — Moldovan, Russian, and Ukrainian. It will also have the right to determine its own fate in the event of a change of status by Moldova (possible unification with Romania is meant here). Moldova will retain control over foreign policy, defense, the law-and-order forces, security, citizenship issues, customs, and other important functions.

The Dniester draft assumes that Tiraspol and Chisinau will be two independent states, and that Dniester will have its own armed forces, law-and-order and security bodies, control its own finances, and pursue an independent foreign policy. [passage omitted]

Parliament Approves Publication of Dniester Draft Law

AU0912185495 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1945 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, December 8 (INFOTAG) — The Moldovan parliamentarians today gave their consent to publication in the press of the draft Dniester status law — on behalf of the Chisinau expert team who drew up the document.

On Friday, the forum gathered not for an ordinary plenary sitting, but for a deputies' meeting, and discussed the Dniester problem. Everyone was given a copy of the draft law, and a draft Appeal to Dniester Residents.

The earliest draft law version was worked out on April 18, 1995 by a group of experts headed by Mihai Busuleac, deputy minister of justice. Since that time, the document was constantly improved, until it was presented recently to the Tiraspol team to study.

Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi reminded today that the sides had been in negotiations for over two years. The Chisinau team consider it expedient to publish their draft so that residents on both river sides, as well as international public, could read it. In Lucinschi's words, that approach is backed by the president, prime minister, and himself.

"We are in negotiations with 10-15 Dniester officials, but in fact we are in the focus of international attention. Wherever we go, everybody asks us about the Dniester problem. But till now, we used to explain our position only in-doors. Now time is ripe to make our stance public. Let everybody know what we discuss at the negotiation table," Lucinschi said. Most deputies who took the floor today stressed the importance of publishing the draft law now, because Dniester residents have practically no idea about the Chisinau's position, which ignorance is expertly used by certain forces in Dniester who are actively involved in the canvassing before the December 24 parliamentary elections there.

Several Socialist Unity deputies proposed to publish a coordinated draft yet to be agreed upon with Tiraspol. As for the opposition factions of the Bloc of Peasants and Intelligentsia and the Popular Front, they are principally against granting any special status to the rebel region.

The draft Appeal to Dniester Residents shall be published immediately after it is finished and signed by parliament deputies.

Chisinau Offers Broad Autonomy to Dniester...

The draft status law envisages the formation of the Dniester autonomous republic with broad plenary powers in the framework of the territorially integral Moldova. The draft version, which has been worked out by the Chisinau expert team, foresees special forms and conditions of the autonomy, a guaranteed division of plenary powers between the Moldovan central and Dniester power bodies, as well as preservation, development and expression of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious traditions of the Dniester population. Official languages in the region shall be Moldovan, Russian, and Ukrainian. The region is allowed to have its own official symbols, to be used alongside with the Moldovan state symbols, the draft reads.

Should Moldova change its status of an independent sovereign state, the Dniester region shall use its right for territorial self-determination. The Dniester region shall include populated localities on the left side of the Dniester River. Inclusion of a city, town or village into the autonomous republic shall be based on the results of local referenda, if the inclusion is supported by over 50 percent of residents eligible to vote living in each particular populated locality. Tiraspol is proposed to become the administrative center of Dniester. According to the draft law, the supreme representative organ of public power in the region shall be the Legislative Assembly, which shall define the Statute of Dniester, to be approved by the Moldovan Parliament. The Assembly shall appoint the Chairperson of the Dniester Government, who shall automatically become Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister.

The Moldova's exclusive competence shall include: control over the observance of the Constitution, external policy, defense, national security, customs, citizenship matters, general judicial regime of property and heritage, organization and functioning of law-enforcement bodies, financial, tax, monetary and credit systems, banking, national statistics, railway and air transportation management, main pipe lines, defense objects, the *national energy system*, national communication and informatics network.

The Dniester competence shall include: organization and functioning of regional and local power bodies, internal administrative-territorial set-up, definition of the structure and priority directions in the development of the Dniester economy, the region's budget, financial and tax activities, municipal police (militia), health services, education, social insurance, science, culture, sports, environment protection.

On mutual agreement of Moldova and Dniester, foreign states and international organizations may be invited to act as guarantors of the Status Law implementation.

...But Tiraspol Insists on 'Joint Competence'

The Tiraspol expert team have submitted to their Chisinau negotiation counterparts their own product — a draft treaty named "On the Joint Competence of the Dniester Moldovan Republic and the Republic of Moldova." Its latest version, dated November 3, was distributed today among the Moldovan parliamentarians.

According to the document, Dniester and Moldova shall build their relationship as two independent states acting on the basis of their own Constitutions. Dniester shall have its own state power organs, citizenship, international frontiers. All issues presenting a mutual interest shall be decided upon jointly by the Dniester and Moldovan supreme power organs. The armed forces, ministries of interior and national security, banking and financial establishments in Dniester and Moldova shall build their relationships on a contractual basis. The document envisages that "In all issues touching upon its interests, the Dniester Moldovan Republic shall take part in the external policy and international relations of the Republic of Moldova." The Dniester Moldovan Republic shall exercise the external economic policy of its own. Dniester and Moldova shall have their plenipotentiary representations in Chisinau and Tiraspol.

Parliament Debates Dniester's Judicial Status

AU0912191695 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2100 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 8/2/1995 (BASApress) — Moldovan MPs debated today the juridical status for Dniester drafted by a presidential commission.

Speaker Petru Lucinschi proposed the MPs to allow people to participate in the debates over the draft by publishing it in the Moldovan and Dniester press.

Artiom Lazarev of the Socialist Unity stated "the Dniester problem should be solved taking into account the consequences." Lazarev opposed the notion of "autonomous republic" which to his mind is "a form of national self-determination." "If we make public the draft, it means we consent to the juridical formation of the Dniester republic. In the case of Dniester there is no specific nation," he said. Lazarev, who had an opinion different from the Socialist Unity's, said "historically, a Dniester nation did not exist, does not exist and will never exist." "Certain people in Tiraspol have the concrete assignment to hold this region with certain strategic interests, and if we accept the republic status, we implicitly accept these intentions as well," Lazarev concluded.

PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova] deputy Fiodor Angheli, retorted "the document actually provides for power decentralization." The document does not stipulate "establishment of a country in a country," said Angheli, specifying "the sky did not fall on earth because there exists an autonomy already in the South."

Deputy Speaker Dumitru Diacov stated by publishing the draft and an appeal by deputies to the Dniester population the Chisinau Parliament will show its good intentions for solving this problem. "Tiraspol leaders' ambitions are much bigger than our suggestions materialized in the draft," Diacov said.

PRCM [Moldovan Party of Revival and Conciliation] Deputy Eugen Rusu stated the draft may be published only after being adopted in the first reading, "the Parliament assuming the responsibility for its contents and for the suggestion presented to the electorate and whole world."

Ivan Zabunov of the PDAM said in the case of Dniester there are no factors "except for some minor historical circumstances allowing the creation of another country on Moldova's territory."

Socialist Deputy Vladimir Solonari said the MPs cannot decide upon the publication of the respective document because this is the author's right. Opposition deputies did not participate in the debates. Earlier, they pronounced against such a status for Dniester. After the debates deputies were to sign an appeal to the Dniester population.

Contents of Dniester Draft Status

The draft special status for Dniester, debated at a special meeting of Moldovan MPs today, was controversially assessed by representatives of the parliamentary factions.

Objections were made to Article 2 of the draft which stipulates that "Dniester is a territorial formation in the form of autonomous republic..."

Vice Justice Minister Mihai Busuleac, head of the Moldovan expert group in the talks with Dniester, told the MPs that the initial project, drafted April 18, envisioned the notion "Dniester region," the alterations being made after further talks with Tiraspol experts.

The draft says that "in Dniester the official languages will be Moldovan, Ukrainian and Russian." The act follows that "Dniester has its own insignia which will be used hand in hand with the Moldovan one." It "is established and used in accordance with the Dniester laws."

"Within the competence established by the current law, Dniester settles political, economic and cultural problems on its own," the project shows, adding that "in the event Moldova changes its independence status, the Dniester population reserves the right to territorial determination."

Any locality will enter Dniester after 50 percent of its eligible resident population favored its adherence in a referendum. The supreme representative public authority in Dniester is the Legislative Assembly elected in accordance with the Dniester legislation. The Legislative Assembly appoints the chairman of the Government, who is also vice prime minister of Moldova. "The Legislative Assembly is dissolved if it violates the Moldovan Constitution or does not adjust its resolutions to the Constitution, if it adopts a resolution seeking to break the territorial integrity and alter the territorial-administrative organization of the state, as well as in the event of impossibility to form the Dniester government during three months."

The draft sets forth that Moldova's exclusive competence is "the control of the respect for the Moldovan Constitution; foreign policy; national security and state frontier defense; citizenship; financial, fiscal and monetary systems; banking activities; civil, administrative, criminal, labor, family, prosecution and police legislation." "Moldova is the only plenipotentiary subject of international law. Through a Chisinau Government decision, consular institutions, accredited by the Moldovan Foreign Ministry, are opened in Dniester."

According to the draft, there is a sole Moldovan citizenship; the Dniester inhabitants have the right to choose the place of military service. It also stipulates that "the passport of the Moldovan citizens residing in Dniester bears the stamp 'Dniester inhabitant'." Dniester's competence is "the adoption of the Dniester statute and republican legislation, internal territorial administrative organization, organization of the local and republican referendum concerning the matters that are within Dniester's competence, insurance of technical-scientific progress."

President Against Russian Military Presence

LD0812225095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Dec 8 (Interfax) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur is against granting the status of peacekeeping forces to a limited contingent of Russian forces in the Moldovan region of Transdniestria.

"The former 14th Army cannot be turned into a peacekeeping contingent because the army has a great number of ammunition and arms at its disposal, and it is known on whose side they will be and what peacekeeping role they will fulfill," Snegur said at a press conference devoted to the fourth year of his presidency. Snegur spoke in favor of a peace settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict at the negotiating table.

Snegur Reviews First Four Years of Presidency

LD0912183995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 9 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On December 8 Moldova marked the fourth anniversary of its first presidential election.

President Mircea Snegur gave a news conference in Chisinau to review his four years in office. The main achievement of this period was "the creation of the attributes of an independent state," Snegur said, mentioning establishment of a guarded national border, withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country and creation of a security service.

"We were able to promptly create a legal base without which it would be much more difficult for Moldova to develop as an independent state and an equal member of the international community," he said.

"Simultaneously with measures to consolidate statehood, a process of democratization of political life has begun - depoliticizing government structures and ensuring freedom of speech and fundamental rights and freedoms for the individual." Relations with political parties Snegur said he was ready to run for re-election as president.

"Although it is premature to speak about this, I will stand for president if I am supported by the people and the Revival and Concord Party which I head," he said.

Explaining his withdrawal from the Agrarian Democratic Party, he said he was concerned about "the excessively increased activity of left-wing forces."

Among "radical left-wing" groupings he put the Communist and Socialist parties and the Agrarian Democratic Party, which "has slid to the left."

Transdniester Conflict

Snegur expressed the conviction that the conflict could be settled only through negotiation and said Chisinau was determined "to continue the dialog until a reasonable compromise is found." At the same time, "the changed position of the Tiraspol (Transdniester capital) leaders, who are making conditions Moldova cannot accept, provides no reasons to expect that the problem will be solved in the immediate future."

That a meeting between him and Transdniester leader Igor Smirnov scheduled for November 29 had been canceled was the fault of Tiraspol, which "proposes that the negotiations be confined to the de facto recognition of the Transdniester Republic, something Chisinau cannot accept."

"I'm not trying to evade responsibility for decisions made during the conflict in the Transdniester region (in 1992)," Snegur said, but he added: "At that period, when the state was still in the making, it was very difficult to make well- considered decisions." Snegur said he was against giving Russian troops stationed in Transdniester the status of a peacekeeping force. "The former (Russian) 14th Army (stationed in Transdniester) cannot be turned into a peacekeeping force since it holds possession of a large amount of armaments and ammunition, and it is clear whose side they will take and what kind of peacekeeping mission they will perform," he said.

Foreign Policy and Integration into International Structures

Snegur pointed out that in the four years since independence Moldova had been recognized by more than 140 countries and had established diplomatic relations with nearly 100 states. He said Moldova had become a member of the Council of Europe and the United Nations and was intensively developing relations with the European Union, with which it signed a partnership and cooperation treaty in November 1994. He also mentioned Moldova's cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which he described as "quite fruitful."

"Moldova's problems meet with understanding in that organization," he said. He denied that Moldova sought integration with NATO. Moldova's constitution declares the country neutral, he said. "We are not going to join either any of the military or political structures of NATO or any similar structures of the Commonwealth of Independent States," the president said. He said Moldova's cooperation with NATO was limited to its participation in the alliance's Partnership for Peace program.

Economic Situation

Moldova has "achieved serious success" in carrying out economic reforms, especially in privatization, Snegur said. But there is a whole series of unsolved problems such as overdue wages and "torpedoing" of an agrarian reform by the government. Snegur said he had taken office at a time when the country's economy was "an excessively centralized system, already engulfed by a general crisis" but despite this, between 1991 and 1994, when he had the authority to issue decrees, "146 documents were issued to regulate the main aspects of economic life, such as mass privatization, the demonopolization of production, the introduction of a national currency, the achievement of relative financial stability at the macroeconomic level and the liberalization of prices."

The president criticized the government and parliament, which "are not consistent enough in implementing reforms," and this "affects the living standards of the population." He said unpaid wages by November reached 183 million lei ($50 million).

Constitution, Official Language, Rights and Freedoms

Snegur said the current constitution, adopted last year, met the basic criteria of democracy. But he reaffirmed his earlier declared intention to press for parliament to change the name of the country's official language as stated in the constitution from Moldovan to Romanian.

"As far as the name of the language is concerned, parliament has every chance to correct its own mistake. What is a scientific truth must be enshrined in the constitution," he said. Snegur said all ethnic groups in Moldova had their rights and freedoms observed.

"Today in all areas which are predominantly populated by Gagauzes and Bulgarians their native languages are taught. In many schools of the country instruction is in Russian and Ukrainian. There are educational establishments where Hebrew, German and Polish are learned."

The Moldovan leadership, "while encouraging the efforts of national minorities in learning the official language of Moldova, seeks to preserve an atmosphere of tolerance and social accord in that delicate area."

Snegur paid special attention to religious affairs in Moldova. He said the Law on Cults regulated the life of 16 officially recognized religious denominations. The number of churches in Moldova has more than quadrupled over the last few years, having reached about 1,400, he said. There are also 29 monasteries, an Orthodox theological academy and an Orthodox seminary. In 1992 the Moldovan Orthodox Church received greater autonomy and in 1994 became independent, Snegur said.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on New Parliament, Russian Elections

LD0912192495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1702 GMT 9 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Nazarbayev Follows Closely Russia's Election Campaign

President Nursultan Nazarbayev speaking at a polling station in the Medeuz constituency on Saturday [9 December] said Kazakhstan's decision not to hold elections on a proportional basis appears to be right in local conditions.

IF Note: As many as 270 candidates are vying for 67 seats in the lower house of parliament in general elections taking place on Saturday. A 50 percent turnout is required for the vote to be valid and candidates are expected to get more than 50 percent support to be elected.

The president said it would be a bad choice to create pre-election chaos in conditions of the ailing economy.

He said 170 candidates were fielded by more than 30 parties and movements with the People's Unity of Kazakhstan fielding 38, which is more than others. The Democratic and Communist parties come next with 22 and nine candidates respectively.

Nazarbayev said the new parliament would hold its first session in a month's time if a two thirds working majority was elected in the first round. He said 38 out of senators were elected on December 5 and that both houses would sit in the building of the former Supreme Soviet in the capital Almaty. The president said the government had already discussed the first package of laws to be unveiled in parliament.

Nazarbayev spoke of following closely the course of Russia's election campaign given that Kazakh and Russian polls almost coincided in time and Kazakhstan could not stay indifferent to what happens in Russia. He sent his wishes of a high turnout to Russians as well as a show of reason in their choice so that the new Duma is dominated by deputies who care about Russia's statehood, democracy and economic reforms. He hopes the resolutions and laws to be approved by the new Duma will help towards stability and economic recovery of Russia.

On CIS prospects, Nazarbayev said CIS integration was not going as well as one would wish for. Overall, he said, it is not bad enough that the CIS has emerged after the break up of the former Soviet Union and regular CIS summits are being held. The CIS has its own executive committee and own court and has signed a package of agreements running at more than 400.

Nazarbayev said Almaty did still believe in the idea of a Eurasian Union, but "any integration must be held on the basis of equality and respect for sovereignty." On some nostalgia for the former Soviet Union, he said "any revival of the Union is impossible and no such task must be set."

Officials of the central electoral commission in Almaty told Interfax that the country's election was held and valid. A 53.3 percent turnout was registered by 2 p.m. local time.

Nazarbayev To Rule Alone Until New Parliament Elected

LD1012175995 Moscow NTV in Russian
1600 GMT 10 Dec 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the elections to the lower chamber of parliament in Kazakhstan yesterday have been summed up. It has not been possible to form the parliament completely, so President Nursultan Nazarbayev will have to rule alone for the time being and it is possible that this is quite to his liking. Here is a report by our special correspondents from Almaty.

[Unidentified correspondent] Forty-three out of 67 seats are now occupied. However, that is not enough to open parliament. Over the next two months a second round of elections will be held in Kazakhstan in constituencies where none of the candidates got half of the votes.

[Begin Yuriy Kim recording, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, identified by caption] I think that this will be in the new year. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The Central Electoral Commission of Kazakhstan has received six complaints of infringements. International observers from the European parliament and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe did not like the fact that many voters voted not only for themselves but also for members of their family.

[Begin Kim recording] I think that this inertia that has come down to us from the past, from Soviet times, will not serve as the basis for recognizing the elections to be invalid. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Supporters of President Nazarbayev, the Party of National Unity, and the Democratic Party of Kazakhstan are predominant among those who have got into parliament. The majority of heads of regional administrations who ran in the elections also got into the Majlis.

Parliament Election Turnout; First Results

LD1012102095 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Voting to elect deputies to the majles, the lower house of the new professional parliament, took place in Kazakhstan yesterday.

There were 285 candidates for 67 mandates. Thirty political parties and public organizations registered candidates, who totalled 157 people.

A total of 110 representatives from international organizations, individual countries and the diplomatic missions of foreign states accredited in Almaty observed the election.

Polling stations were also opened in all countries where Kazakhstan has embassies, including Moscow.

As we have just learned at the Central Electoral Commission, 78.06 per cent of the electorate took part in the vote. Forty-three deputies have been elected. Repeat ballots are to take place in the remaining constituencies.

OSCE Observers Draw No Conclusions on Elections

LD1012182195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Dec 10 (Interfax) — OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] officials who observed the elections to the Kazakh lower house of parliament made no conclusions on whether the elections were democratic or otherwise, Eric Rudensholb, an OSCE official, said at a briefing in Almaty Sunday. A total of four OSCE officials supervised the elections

Rudensholb said that the observers visited 104 polling stations in the Almaty region where they met with numerous officials, party activists and voters. Because there were too few of them, the observers could not visit all the polling stations in the country.

Rudensholb said that on numerous occasions people voted for entire families, even though officials had reassured the OSCE that the one voter - one vote principle would be stringently adhered to.

OSCE officials felt that some voters did not know who they voted for or what the elections were about.

Nevertheless, the OSCE officials agreed that the Kazakh government did its best to improve the situation compared to 1994 when the OSCE said that the elections were not democratic.

A total of 110 international observers from 17 countries supervised the elections in Kazakhstan.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Arrives in New Delhi on Official Visit

LD1112114195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 11 Dec 95

[By Vladimir Shvedov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, December 11 (Itar-Tass) — President of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmanov arrived in the Indian capital on an official visit today, the first in the history of bilateral relations between the two countries. The Tajik leader will hold talks with president of India Shankar Dayal Sharma, prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee.

Attention will remain mainly focussed during the forthcoming consultations, Tajikistan's minister of economics and foreign economic relations Tukhtaboi Gafarov said in an interview with Itar-Tass, on discussing the prospects of further widening contacts between the two countries, above all, in the sphere of trade and economic partnership, which, both sides claim, possess a good potential.

A large package of bilateral document is being kept ready to be signed. It includes cooperation in the sphere of science, exchange of technologies and promoting and protecting investments. Beside this, direction of interaction will be marked in public health care, protection of the environment and telecommunications, as well as in the sphere of customs regulations. With the aim of furthering a rapid establishment of multilateral ties and monitoring observance of understandings arrived at a decision has been made to create a bilateral intergovernmental commission.

According to the Tajik leadership's assessment, Gafarov emphasized, the visit to India by Rakhmanov will pave a new path for the development of traditional friendly relations between the two states.

Specific forces hamper the peaceful development of the republics of Central Asia, making their progress on the road to democracy and the social development difficult for them, Emomali Rakhmanov said during a meeting with his Indian counterpart Shankar Dayal Sharma. He informed the Indian leader of the current social and political situation and around it in Tajikistan. The Tajik head of state expressed his country's leadership's firm resolve to construct a democratic, legal and secular state. Rakhmanov emphasized Dushanbe's interest in establishing and developing multifaceted economic cooperation with India.

The presidents of the two countries discussed the situation in the region and noted a coincidence of views on many problems under consideration.

From his side, Shankar Dayal Sharma reiterated India's readiness to provide aid in restoring Tajikistan's economy.

Government, Opposition Delegations Exchange Proposals

LD0812223895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, Dec 8 (Interfax) — The Tajik opposition's chief negotiator at talks with the government Akbar Turadzhonzoda said the two parties today had exchanged in Ashgabat written political proposals on settlement of the situation in the country.

"Proposals of the two parties are very far from each other," he said.

"Dushanbe fails to display will for political accord and demands that all of its proposals be unconditionally accepted," he said.

The Tajik government's chief negotiator, First Deputy Prime Minister Makhmadsaid Ubaydullayev declined to comment on the proposals advanced by Dushanbe.

The U.N. secretary-general's special envoy Ramiro Piris-Ballion confirmed the exchange of proposals between the parties but refused to comment on them. He only admitted that there were differences in the proposals. "The U.N. will try to obtain a compromise," he said.

The two delegations are expected to meet again on December 11.

Earlier, on December 7, the two delegations confirmed their commitment to cease-fire and said they were ready to cooperate for the implementation of the Tehran agreement of August 17, 1995.

U.N. representatives said in a press release that the parties introduced their positions in order to continue the discussion on a deeper level at the next plenary and other sessions.

The Tajik opposition's delegation Thursday circulated its draft for the joint statement obliging the parties to observe the cease-fire on the Tajik-Afghan border and in Tajikistan. The opposition also proposes that the parties begin discussing and resolving political and military problems under the U.N. aegis and with the participation of observers after confirming the end of military actions.

The present round of inter-Tajik talks began in Ashgabat on November 30.

Bread Prices Treble; Shortages of Fuel

LD1112115595 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The price of flour, bread, and other bread products rose three-fold at once all over the republic today. [passage omitted]

As is known, free bread prices were introduced in the republic, and the price depends on the cost of transportation, processing, and sales.

Citizens realize that our long-suffering country is going through a difficult transitional phase to the market economy, and faces new problems every moment. Present conditions for the public are very hard, and the shortages of electricity, gas, and heating will cause many problems for every resident of the republic.

Uzbekistan

Russian Party Leader: Russian-Uzbek Relations 'Bad'

LD0812231195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TASHKENT, Dec 8 (Interfax) — The present state of economic relations between Russia and Uzbekistan is simply bad, leader of the United Industrial Party of Russia Vladimir Scherbakov told journalists in the Uzbek capital Tashkent Friday.

Scherbakov had arrived in Tashkent together with president of the Russian Industrialists and Entrepreneurs' Union Arkadiy Volskiy.

"Today it is necessary to restore broken ties" between the two countries, Scherbakov said.

"The industries of Russia and Uzbekistan have it tougher without each other," he added.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov received both Volskiy and Scherbakov later Friday afternoon.

President Karimov Upbeat on Economy

LD0812223495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Islam Karimov has said there will be no repeat of the hardships of the past few years and that 1996 will be become the year of growth.

In a speech to the meeting dedicated to the third anniversary of the country's constitution, the president said the trial test of the last few years was past and Uzbekistan was facing a bright future.

He said the constitution proved its viability in the years of independence and that all what was being done is done to help improve living standards in the republic.

Karimov said everyone must be equal before the law since the country was out to build a democratic state based on the rule of law.

Also held was a conference dedicated to the event with delegates stressing that the country's new constitution had embraced whatever best there was in Tamerlan's medieval code.

The forum involved leading scholars, legal experts and public figures. The delegates said parts of the Tamerlan code were applicable even today and that his heritage must be used in drawing up new laws.

It took all of two years and nationwide discussion to adopt the country's new basic law which, the delegates claimed, was "among the world's best."

Azerbaijan

Turkish President Demirel Pays Official Visit

Expresses Support for Azerbaijan

LD0812154295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1106 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Dec 8 (Interfax) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel assured his Azerbaijani counterpart Geydar Aliyev that "Turkey has always supported and will support Azerbaijan." The two presidents met Thursday evening in Baku. Demirel is paying an official visit to Azerbaijan.

According to Demirel, Turkey will work in every direction to promote cooperation with Azerbaijan. Bosnian stabilization will turn the world's attention to the Karabakh conflict, he said.

With the adoption of a new Constitution and the election of a new parliament Azerbaijan has met the requirements of democracy, he also said.

Aliyev, in turn, described bilateral relations as "multifaceted." But, he said, the two countries have a higher potential for, and ought to boost, cooperation. Aliyev sees his meeting with Demirel as another step toward expanded cooperation between the two "fraternal countries."

Demirel Meets Opposition Representatives

NC0812173895 Baku TURAN in English
1021 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/08.12.95/TURAN — This morning President Demirel has met with the heads of three opposition parties — National Independence, Popular Front and Musavat [Equality]. Each meeting was 20 minutes and was behind the closed doors.

After the meeting with Turkey's President the head of National Independence party, Etibar Mamedov, said the political situation in Azerbaijan after the elections and the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict were the focus of attention during the talk. The head of the National Independence party called the meeting "useful". Asked by journalists how he assesses Demirel's statement that elections in Azerbaijan were democratic and fit the international standards, Mamedov said "he did not hear President Demirel saying that".

Regarding to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict settlement, Mamedov said that it is possible after settlement of the Bosnian conflict. He also noted "Azerbaijan must be grateful only to Turkey for assistance in settlement of Kharabakh conflict".

After the meeting with President Demirel the deputy chairman of the Popular Front party, Ali Kerimov, told journalists the issues concerning human rights in Azerbaijan, in particular, the fate of [former foreign minister] Tofik Gasimov and Arif Pashayev, have been discussed during the meeting.

Ali Kerimov "positively" assessed the results of the meeting. Kerimov sayd Demirel assured that he is to make every efforts for the democratic reforms in Azerbaijan. Kerimov noted President Demirel stood for uniting of the authorities and the opposition of Azerbaijan in the name of national interests. Demirel interested in the situation of [former president] Elchibey too.

Touching upon the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Ali Kerimov, expressed the opinion that "Turkey's participation in the conflict settlement will bring the results".

The head of Musavat party, Isa Gambar, after the meeting with Turkish President said the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, political situation in Azerbaijan and the relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan were discussed during their meeting.

Gambar said President Demirel noted "peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia is inevitable, however neither Azerbaijan nor Turkey will agree with unfair peace".

Questionned how Suleyman Demirel assessed veto on "Musavat" party's participation at the Parliamentary elections, Isa Gambar noted "possibly, it is a trifle for him".

Isa Gambar also said Turkey's President promised to take up the fate of the Musavat member, the former Foreign Minister, Tofik Gasimov, who was arrested by the authorities this autumn.

Demirel Address on Election, Karabakh

NC0812174995 Baku TURAN in English
1144 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/08.12.95/TURAN — Today Turkey's President Suleyman Demirel addressed the Milli Mejlis [National Assembly] of the Republic Azerbaijan.

President Demirel characterized the Parliamentary elections November 12 in Azerbaijan as a historical step towards democracy. "You have been elected by free will of the nation", he said addressing the Milli Mejlis deputies. "Turkey feels happy, since Azerbaijan has passed the political examination", President Demirel noted. He expressed confidence that Azerbaijan will overcome all obstacles on the way to democracy and freedom.

Turkey's President noted the world community must correctly assess the problem between Armenia and Azerbaijan. President Demirel said Turkey backs up peace efforts of Azerbaijan for the conflict settlement. "The settlement of the conflict is connected with prompt liberation of occupied Azeri lands and refugees home coming", President Demirel mentioned. He believes the lasting peace on the Caucasus can be restored only in such direction. "Turkey does not have the keys from the conflict settlement, concrete resolution will be taken by the parties to the conflict", he mentioned. He believes prompt settlement of the problem would have made real implementation of the global economic projects, including the Middle Asian region.

Turkey's President said he had met with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan within the framework of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict settlement. "During these meetings I have repeatedly stressed that restoration of peace on the Caucasus is advantageous for Armenia as well. Today's situation on the Caucasus isolates Armenia from the outer world as well", President Demirel said. He said during these meetings the Armenian side has been informed that if the Armenian troops are withdrawn from the Azeri lands, Turkey will re-establish relations with Armenia and will give it the opportunity to integrate with the outer world in the most optimal way. "However, Turkey will never agree to anything insulting Azerbaijan", President Demirel mentioned.

Touching upon the situation in Azerbaijan, Turkey's President stressed importance of achievement of the civil consent and stability inside the country. National unity is possible around common ideals and values. He also recognized importance of ensurance of freedom of speech in the country.

Regarding the economic relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan, President Demirel noted for Azerbaijan Turkey has become new alternative for integration into the economic processes, in particular, in the fields of informatics, banking, trade, science, education and air transport. "Presently 1,871 students from Azerbaijan study in Turkey and 2,500 Turkish students study in Azerbaijan's Universities".

The trade turnover between two countries in 1993 was $102 million, in 1994 — $140 million. The Turkish investments in the Azeri economy are estimated at $600 million", he said. In the international context Turkey attaches great importance to implementation of functions of the diplomatic guide of Azerbaijan, President Demirel said.

Aliyev on Turkish-Azeri Relations

LD0812222595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev believes that although contacts between Azerbaijan and Turkey are diversified, their current level is still inadequate to the two countries' potential. Aliyev was speaking in Baku on Thursday at negotiations with his Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel, who is in Azerbaijan on an official visit.

President Aliyev called for the further expansion of economic and cultural cooperation between Baku and Ankara. He described President Demirel's visit as "another phase in relations between fraternal countries."

As he addressed the Azerbaijani parliament in President Demirel's presence, President Aliyev described Azerbaijan's December 12 parliamentary elections and referendum on a new constitution as a "major achievement, in particular, in the context of hardships brought about by the conflict with Armenia."

President Aliyev said that Azerbaijan had set "the strategic course towards building a democratic state ruled by law and a market economy." As he reviewed the immediate objectives, President Aliyev mentioned privatization, expansion of the private sector and protection of foreign investments. However, he said the implementation of all these programs was "very complicated by Armenia's aggression and the damage caused by the seven years of war in Karabakh."

President Aliyev recalled that more than one million citizens of Azerbaijan had become refugees. He described that as "great injustice." He declared Baku's intention to resolve the Karabakh problem by peaceful means and its readiness for a dialogue with the opponent in the dispute in spite of "aggression against us and the occupation of our lands." Aliyev recalled that Baku one and a half years ago agreed to truce in Karabakh in order to not miss another chance of settling the crisis by peaceful means. However, in spite of the 19-month-old ceasefire there is still neither war nor peace in the region. "This state of affairs cannot last indefinitely," he said. Aliyev declared that Azerbaijan was prepared to compromise in order to settle the Karabakh conflict, however, "only if our natural desire and right to have our land back and to return people to their homes are taken into account."

President Demirel told President Aliyev that Turkey had always been Azerbaijan's supporter and would remain so in the future. He confirmed Ankara's intention to develop cooperation with Baku in all areas. He pointed out that by adopting a new constitution and electing a new parliament Azerbaijan had made a historic step and adjusted itself to the basic world standards of democracy.

About the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict President Demirel said he hoped that "after the stabilization in Bosnia the world community will focus on settling the conflict in Karabakh." He also voiced support for Baku's efforts to settle that conflict by peaceful means. President Demirel condemned what he described as "territorial expansion and the re-drawing of borders from the position of strength," which "led to the occupation of one-fifth of Azerbaijan's territory and made more than one million people homeless." President Demirel called for putting an end to this injustice towards Azerbaijan.

President Demirel hopes that the world Community would pay great attention to a fair settlement of the Karabakh conflict, which must imply "the withdrawal of Armenian occupation troops from annexed Azerbaijani territories."

President Demirel said that Ankara was holding political consultations on Karabakh with both Baku and Yerevan. He recalled his meetings with the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, where it was stated that the Karabakh conflict harmed both sides and hindered their integration into the world community. Ankara is prepared to develop good-neighborly relations with Yerevan "only if Armenia respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan," President Demirel said. He remarked that although Turkey was very interested in a peace settlement of the Karabakh problem, it would not take any steps running counter to Azerbaijan's position.

About economic cooperation Demirel said that Turkey planned to participate in major projects in a vast region, including the Caucasus and Central Asia. He pointed to the expansion of air links between Turkish and Azerbaijani cities and the broadcasting of Turkish programs to Azerbaijan via satellite as examples of mutually beneficial ties.

President Demirel said he was satisfied with bilateral cooperation in the field of mass communication. He recalled that with Turkish assistance Azerbaijan had become a user of the international communication network Internet. IF Note: According to official sources Turkish-Azerbaijani trade in 1993 was $102 million, and in 1994, $140 million. Turkish investments into the Azerbaijani economy have totalled $600 million.

President Demirel recalled that Turkey furnished diplomatic support for Azerbaijan and allowed Baku to use Turkish foreign missions to tackle its foreign policy tasks.

About the major project to export Caspian oil across Turkey to the Mediterranean President Demirel said that its implementation would not only bring prosperity to "Azerbaijan and benefit Turkey, but promote the well-being of all countries of the region." President Demirel recalled Turkey's favorable geo-political location "in the very center Eurasia" and invited Azerbaijan to use that advantage.

Aliyev, Demirel Sign Joint Statement

LD0812231295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2122 GMT 8 Dec 95

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, December 8 (Itar-Tass) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev signed a joint statement late on Friday.

In a paragraph devoted to political issues, the two sides gave priority to peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict within the framework of the OSCE, denounced Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and the occupation of Azerbaijan by Armenian armed formations.

The two leaders expressed a mutual desire to build an oil pipeline for the exports of Azerbaijani oil to world markets which will run across the Turkish territory as far as the seaport of Ceyhan.

The statement envisages building an electric power substation an three energy transmission lines in the neighbouring country to supply energy to oil transportation facilities in three western direction — via Georgia and Turkey. The two sides stressed the importance of the creation of a single power supply ring involving these two countries and Azerbaijan and the construction of communication facilities in the region connecting it with Central Asia.

The two sides also signed an agreement on cooperation in teleradio broadcasting, communications and air transportations.

The Turkish president is expected to return to Turkey early on December 9.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Economy, Russian Elections

LD1112121895 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0620 GMT 11 Dec 95

[Interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani in Tbilisi — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, speaking of the economic situation in Georgia, we can say that the past week was notable for the visits to Georgia by representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as for the general trend toward strengthening the lari, on one hand, and on the other hand, for the energy crisis that has further aggravated the difficulties of our population.

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. We already spoke about the problems and prospects of improving the situation in energy supplies on 4 December, and this may become the topic of one of the first meetings of a new government after it has been formed. I would like to emphasize that in order to resolve major acute problems that we are facing in the energy system, we have, first of all, to cope with the main task — to complete the maintenance, restoration, and actual rebuilding of generating unit nine at the Tbilisi thermal power station. I reiterate that this matter assumes decisive importance. Operations are at a crucial stage there.

As the listeners are well aware, we are performing this gigantic task with the assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany, with funds allocated by that country. As you know the work is being done by the world-known Siemens company. The whole potential of the German experts, as well as all our resources, have been mobilized now and, as I was told late last night by Mr. Zubitashvili [head of the Georgian energy department], the furnace has already been stoked. I believe we shall be considering running the generating unit at its full capacity in the next two or three days. This will evidently ease the situation. [passage omitted]

Urgent measures are being taken at the Inguri hydroelectric station, and as of 20 December we expect the situation to become much better. At least the schedule of rationed supply of electricity to the enterprises and population will have to be met. This an urgent request I filed with this department.

Now, a few words about Georgian industry. It should be noted that the growth rate of the industry during the past 11 months year was 115 percent compared to the similar period last year. Indeed, if we had worked normally last year, this would be an impressive figure, a very impressive growth. However, you know that we worked in very difficult circumstances last year. In December, for instance, the industry was practically at a standstill. But, as it is, the present result, I mean the 115 percent, points to new trends.

Moreover, the results were far more remarkable in individual sectors of the industry. In particular, the production of the engineering industry more than doubled, instrumental industry production almost tripled, production of machines for food industry almost quadrupled, and defense industry production increased almost ninefold. Indeed, this does not imply the products for defense purposes. This implies the goods produced by the industry for general, civilian use. [passage omitted]

Certain steps have been taken to enhance these trends. Intergovernmental agreements were signed last week with appropriate structures in Russia and Kazakhstan on the mutual supply of industrial products. Products of 13 denominations will be supplied to Kazakhstan only. These include vehicles, tower lifters, and other products. The Russian Federation committed itself to supplying equipment and raw material of 27 denominations to help start up Georgia's chemical engineering industry. [passage omitted]

The Gori cotton mill has agreements with enterprises in Azerbaijan and Russia to produce textile from thread supplied by them. [passage omitted]

However, Georgian industry is still far from working at its full capacity. There is an acute shortage of spare parts for agricultural machinery. It is necessary to seek the ways and means to import the required products from other countries, but it is also necessary to make full use of our own industrial capacities. [passage omitted]

Like in the past, serious attention should be paid to the financial system. During the past week, the Georgian lari gained against the U.S. dollar at the Tbilisi Interbank Currency Exchange. The rate stands at 1.25 lari for the U.S. dollar compared with 1.26 in the previous week. Over $500,000 was traded during the latest trading session.

According to the Georgian Tax Inspectorate, tax revenues during the past 11 months exceeded the indices of the last year fourfold. This is also a significant trend. [passage omitted]

In order to have an idea of the scale of international aid to Georgia and to understand what this aid means for Georgia, it is sufficient to note that, by 8 December, the overall budget expenditures were 275 million lari, of which 156 million lari was covered by IMF and World Bank credits. This shows the significance of the visits to Georgia by delegations from these organizations. Some of them are here at the moment. We can say that the country would hardly survive without this. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] The Georgian economy, and not only the economy, will obviously undergo basic changes after the Georgian parliament has passed the law on the structure and activities of the executive authorities proposed by you last week. The long-expected and talked-about structural rearrangement of the executive authorities has taken place at last, and this was presumably agreed with the international financial organizations. In addition, the minister of state has been appointed, and as far as I know, you are going to submit a personalized list of particular members of the Cabinet of Ministers to the bureau of the Georgian parliament. There are two guesses — either you will change the staff of the government completely or you will gradually replace the cadres and no drastic changes should be expected.

[Shevardnadze] A fundamentally new structure of the executive authorities, which has been approved as a result of fruitful cooperation with the parliament, is doubtlessly directed toward the radical changes to be implemented in the country's economy. This should result in securing employment for the population, a complete revival of the economy, the implementation of far-reaching reforms in all spheres of life, and the well-being of the population. This is a structure that will have to increase the pace of building the state and establish eventual stability and a creative atmosphere.

However, no structure can work on its own. Everything will depend on the individuals and leaders who will supervise sectors of the economy and spheres of life. Indeed, it is a difficult task to choose a staff like this. Neither can we speak of replacing the whole staff, nor can we think of retaining the old team in full.

[Oniani] Especially now that the old team has already shown their worth and our society can see very clearly which leader can manage his job.

[Shevardnadze] Absolutely. At least the fact that the Cabinet of Ministers will no longer have and work with its numerous echelons and hurdles allows us to think that the new authorities will be more flexible, closer to the population's problems and headaches, and easily manageable. It will be relatively simplified compared to what it used to be. The staff of the government, which I am going to propose to the parliament bureau today — I will have a hard day — is the optimum of our present abilities. It will include experienced as well as young figures.

I would like to say again that in any case we shall have to be guided by the maximum of our possibilities and be satisfied with this maximum rather than be guided only by our own desires and conceptions of ideal decisions and ideal personalities. It is rather difficult under the current circumstances. Our present cadre resources do not allow us to always take ideal decisions and make ideal choices in each case.

As far as I know, the appointment of the minister of state has caused a fairly positive reaction within our community. This is not accidental. His experience, creed, and attitude toward the reforms and the needs of the population show that the choice was right. We shall have to find the people, at least for the key posts, who are most appropriate for performing the tasks assigned to them.

In short, let us wait. Time will judge the righteousness of every decision, and I believe time is on our side.

[Oniani] Rather grave forecasts are made for the elections in Russia. The elections are significant not only for Russia or Georgia or the post-Soviet area. Politicians all over the world are watching closely the development of events in Russia. It is the reality no matter how we like it. How far do you agree with the grave forecasts that the elections will result in reactionary forces actually taking power.

[Shevardnadze] I will refrain from a detailed comment on the topic, although the interest in the approaching Russian elections is very strong in Georgia, as well as all over the world. Just a couple of words.

The Russian population endured a lot of adversities during the past few years while advancing along the most difficult path of building democracy. I believe that Russia and Russian citizens will not aspire to deviate from this path. Actually, it is impossible.

Whatever the results of the elections, Georgia's policy of building new, friendly, and good-neighborly relations with our great neighbor will not change. This is the course that meets the interests of both Russia and Georgia.

As far as the chances of reactionary forces coming to power are concerned, I am afraid we do not always have a clear idea of who is a reactionary force and who is not. Therefore, we have to be cautious in expressing appreciation like this and wait for the results of the elections. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Issues Decree To Form Military Doctrine

LD0812204095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Shevardnadze on Thursday issued a decree on the Georgian armed forces, the presidential press-service has said. The Defense Ministry was instructed to draw up a military doctrine and program the way it had been done by other countries with a similar historical experience.

The agencies concerned were instructed to build up, by the end of the year, a three-month reserve of material and technical supplies in military units and to develop and present for consideration a national program for repairing equipment and armaments and building up ammunition reserves.

The Georgian Government was instructed to formulate the functions of the Defense Ministry as general contractor of the armed forces. A scientific-technical council will be formed at the Defense Ministry's office. It will be chaired by the Defense Minister.

Nugzar Sadzhaya, presidential national security adviser, said he hoped that the decree would help develop and strengthen the armed forces. At the same time he pointed out that some clauses of the decree concerned specific aspects of developing the armed forces and it was impossible to disclose them for state security reasons.

Sadzhaya said that the military doctrine had been drafted already and would be submitted for consideration to the National Defense Council to be set up at the presidential office shortly. After that the doctrine will go before the Georgian parliament for approval.

Parliament Adopts Shevardnadze Proposal for Reform

LD0812222995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1956 GMT 8 Dec 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Georgian parliament on Friday adopted a law on the executive bodies of power. As he presented the draft, President Eduard Shevardnadze said that the government would be fundamentally reformed. He agreed that there were certain flaws in the bill and promised that the law would be perfected it was implemented.

IF Note: Under the law the president is the head of all executive bodies of power. He has under his command the government consisting of 18 ministers and 11 chiefs of state agencies. There is no office of prime minister. The Cabinet from now on will be an advisory body and all decisions will be made by the president himself. The Georgian security service is being turned into a ministry. The staffs of the head of state and of the Cabinet of Ministers have been abolished. They will be replaced by a state office, whose chief will have the rank of a state minister.

Shevardnadze believes that the new pattern of executive government is a "much simpler and effective model of running the nation." He agreed that in a sense the law was reminiscent of the socialist model of government. However, there was a considerable difference, too. Government ministers, Shevardnadze said, would have sweeping powers and the president would intervene in their activity only in exceptional cases.

Shevardnadze in particular noted the role of the minister who would coordinate government activities and act as mediator in president's relations with the government and parliament.

At the same session the Georgian parliament endorsed Niko Lekishvili, previously the Mayor of Tbilisi, as Georgia's State Minister.

Abkhaz Official Views Latest Round of Talks With Georgia

LD1012185495 Sukhumi Republic of Abkhazia Radio in Russian 0425 GMT 10 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sokrat Jinjolia and Anri Jergenia, members of the Abkhaz delegation to the latest round of Abkhaz-Georgian negotiations in Moscow, have returned to Sukhumi and held a news conference. In his opening speech, the head of the delegation, Sokrat Jinjolia, said:

[Begin Sokrat Jinjolia recording, chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet] The latest round of Abkhaz-Georgian talks, which continued in Moscow throughout November, ended in failure. No document was signed and neither was a mutually acceptable resolution taken on any of the issues discussed at the talks. As a mediator, the Russian side handed over to the Georgian and Abkhaz parties its version of a draft memorandum on settling the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict. This draft memorandum should be worked over. The Abkhaz Parliament will discuss the memorandum and it will be considered in Georgia, too. Naturally, we will assume an attitude toward the draft and in accordance with what we want to achieve at the talks, we will draw up our draft memorandum and present it to the other parties.

To describe the document that we brought from Moscow, I would say that it does not meet our interests. In fact, the document proposes the creation of a single federative state, of which Abkhazia would be a certain subject with certain rights. Our fundamental attitude is absolutely different. This has been stated repeatedly by the [Abkhaz] president [Vladislav Ardzinba], a resolution has been passed on the issue by the Parliament of the Republic of Abkhazia and we cannot permit any deviation from our course and from the resolution.

That was why the Abkhaz side did not give its consent to the signing of any memorandum with such contents in Moscow.

I will reiterate that the document should be discussed, we will have to express our official opinion on it, to take our own approach to settling the issue, which would meet all fundamental provisos of the 4 April 1994 statement on a political settlement of the conflict. Actually, negotiations should be based on the development of the provisos and the principles stated in the protocol. [end recording]

Answering questions by correspondents, Jinjolia said that although Russia, as a mediator, adheres on the whole to the principle of the country's territorial integrity, it did not exert any pressure on the Abkhaz side. [passage omitted] The issue of renewing the mandate of the peacekeeping forces was also discussed at the Moscow talks. In Jinjolia's words the Abkhaz side regards separating the confronting sides and maintaining peace as major functions of the peacekeeping forces and does not rule out equipping them with police functions. [passage omitted]

Estonia

Kallas 6 Dec Statement to N. Atlantic Council

WS0812134895 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1448 GMT 6 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Statement by Mr. Siim Kallas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia at the North Atlantic Co-operation Council 6 December 1995, Brussels

Mr. Secretary-General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to speak before the North Atlantic Co-operation Council at such an important junction for this forum and future European security structures. The two issues under discussion — the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Partnership for Peace and NACC co-operation — are two important factors in the calculation of European security today. I am sure that our co-operation, our commitment and the courage of our convictions will enable us to rise to the occasion.

Estonia welcomes the recent Dayton agreement to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The intensity that the negotiators brought to achieving an agreement must now continue in our efforts to secure a peace. Our success or failure will have a direct impact not only on the residents of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but also on the future of security in Europe.

Peace implementation in Bosnia-Herzegovina presents us with the opportunity to carry out policies that have been discussed largely in theory. For the first time in history, NATO's military structure is put into action. Forces from PFP states will complement NATO forces. Estonia's participation is also a litmus test for our ability to co-operate with and contribute to NATO forces. The skills learned through our training with NATO forces will be put to the test.

Estonia recognises the importance of the task and has committed itself to sending Estonian forces to serve alongside our American and European partners. The Baltics are a long way from the Balkans, but European security is indivisible. We view our participation as an obligation Estonia, as a European state, must undertake. Estonia regards itself as not just a security consumer, but also a security producer.

A return to normal day-to-day living in Bosnia-Herzegovina requires more than just soldiers; it requires not just peace implementation, but what we would call democracy implementation. By sending its representatives to the region, Estonia intends to assist OSCE civilian efforts to repair the shattered structures and society of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Our participation in the Implementation Force would not be possible without the work of this Council and the Partnership for Peace program.

The development of the Planning and Review Process for Estonia has contribute greatly to our moves toward NATO. The PARP process is supporting Estonia's development of military structures and procedures. Our PFP co-operation has enhanced the training of our armed forces. With the goal of increasing interoperability of command, control and communications with NATO forces, Estonia has taken part in joint defence planning exercises together with Partners.

Estonia also continues to seek strengthened regional co-operation. The formation of the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion will soon be complete. A regional air surveillance and control system compatible with NATO standards is being established with the help of NATO members. Just last week, the commanders of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian armed forces agreed on the need for enhanced Baltic defence co-operation.

However, more work needs to be done. I agree with William Perry, the U.S. Secretary of Defense, who, during a recent visit my to country, noted that interoperability means more than just interoperability of equipment. Estonia needs to conform and harmonise its procedures and standards. We hope to participate even more actively in exercises and PFP activities. We also hope that our NATO partners will continue to assist us in reaching our goals.

I would like to comment on Estonia's relationship with NATO in the field of science. Over one year ago, we proposed an initiative to open NATO's "Science for Stability" programme to all three Baltic states. The initiative was discussed in the context of widening the program to all PFP countries. I hope that 1996 will mark the beginning of increased ties between the Estonian scientific community and its NATO counterparts.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to make some brief comments regarding the Study on NATO Enlargement. For states striving for NATO membership, the report serves as an essential roadmap to NATO. Estonia is pleased with the study's pragmatic approach toward enlargement.

As it is said in the study, we should approach enlargement with clear heads and clear purposes. The rational tone complements the rational criteria for expanding membership — standards must be set and then be met. Estonia shares the conviction that enlargement should be based on a case-by-case basis. Individual states must be reviewed on an individual basis, on their individual merits.

Estonia continues toward NATO integration not with its head in the clouds, but with its feet on the ground and its sights firmly set. We firmly believe that an overheated atmosphere may negatively affect the process. As we say in Estonia, "let's work more and talk less."

Kallas 7 Dec Address at Budapest OSCE Meeting

WS1112160595 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1007 GMT 8 Dec 95

["Remarks" by Siim Kallas, minister of foreign affairs, at the OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Budapest on 7 December—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Chairman, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank the outgoing Chairman in Office of the OSCE, Mr. Laszlo Kovacs, for his chairmanship over the past year. Estonia wishes you continued success in the future. I would also like to thank the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoel, for agreeing with the extension of his mandate. Having met with the High Commissioner during his visit to Tallinn last week, I am confident that the experience he has gained in the last three years will encourage him to broaden the scope of his activities both politically and geographically.

As this is my first appearance before the OSCE in my new capacity as foreign minister, I would like to briefly restate the importance Estonia places on this organisation and its workings. Estonia views the OSCE as one of the most comprehensive and effective security structures in Europe. Transparent decision making, based on consensus, results in credible and binding decisions respected by member states. Estonia will continue to promote the principles of this organisation both domestically and internationally.

In my view, one of the OSCE's greatest strengths is its capacity to evolve. The ability to meet the challenges of a changing world is an essential element in increasing European stability. In the context of the OSCE's commitment to evolve, I would like to briefly raise three issues on which I will elaborate in discussions later today.

First, I would like to comment on the Security Model for the Twenty-first Century. Estonia recognises the need to develop security building blocks, based on existing organisations and principles. However, I believe that the OSCE should also seek to strengthen existing OSCE norms and their compliance — that is, security based on shared values. A flexible response to changing security concerns should not include flexible OSCE norms and empty declarations. Europe's future security architecture cannot be planned with double standards nor built with paper walls.

Second, I would like to express Estonia's views on the role of CSBMs [as received] in Europe's future security structures and welcome the increased importance the OSCE places on regional politico-military security. While Estonia believes that regional CSBMs cannot become a substitute for European-wide security structures, they could help strengthen security via a bottom-up approach when states are relatively equal in capabilities. However, we should ask ourselves if regional CSBM agreements will be respected when broader, European agreements are being ignored, violated, and then rebrokered without guarantees for their implementation.

Lastly, I would like to raise an issue which is maintaining the cost-effectiveness of the OSCE. During these times of increased instability and conflict in Europe, the OSCE must seriously review where it should or should not concentrate its resources. A cost-benefit analysis, comparing the democratic benefits against the costs of money and manpower, would help target OSCE activities for the Twenty-first century.

[Note: Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release carries the following notation here: "Embargo until 7 December 1995, 1500 CET. Please check against delivery. Remarks on Bosnia-Herzegovina by Mr. Siim Kallas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia Ministerial Meeting of the OSCE 7 December 1995, Budapest"]

Mr Chairman,

Thank you very much for allowing me to take the floor once again. Estonia, as well as the other nations of Europe, are pleased that in Bosnia-Herzegovina the rays of peace now shine over the blind emotions of war. We sincerely hope that the peace will last, thus ending a war that bled Europe for four long years.

Estonia places great importance on securing the peace at hand. Successful implementation of peace is important to the future of European security architecture, especially the OSCE. The principles that modern European institutions were founded upon — upholding human rights and safeguarding European security — are at stake along with the peace. Successful implementation is also important to the stability of the region as a whole.

Estonia views peace implementation as a burden it, as a European nation, must share. We have offered our men and women at arms to participate in IFOR activities, where they will serve alongside Nordic and American forces. Their return to this region, where previously they served as UN peacekeepers, is a contribution Estonia is ready and willing to make. In the united defence of our common democratic principles, Estonia seeks to be a security provider as well as a security consumer.

In addition to providing military resources, Estonia offers to provide our diplomatic skills to foster a lasting peace. We would like to participate in OSCE civilian efforts to repair the society and structures fragmented by war.

The urgency of implementing peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina highlights the OSCE's need to concentrate its resources in areas where it can reap the most benefits. Estonia fully agrees with recommendations that the costs and benefits of OSCE missions and priorities should be fully reviewed. The OSCE can make real and lasting gains in regional European conflicts such as Bosnia- Herzegovina, Chechnya and Nagorno-Karabakh. It should not let bureaucratic inertia misdirect money and manpower from OSCE priorities. Estonia also fully supports the introduction of confidence building measures and arms control agreements into the region where they are best suited.

Foreign Minister Addresses 8 Dec OSCE Meeting

WS0812155995 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1357 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Remarks on the Security Model for the 21st Century by Mr. Siim Kallas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia Ministerial Meeting of the OSCE 8 December 1995, Budapest

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you once again for the floor. I will make my remarks brief. For a year we have been discussing the concept of the Common and Comprehensive Security Model for the Twenty-first Century. It is crucial that all 53 OSCE member states, regardless of their past experiences, participate in a candid and broad debate over security concerns and the future of the OSCE.

Estonia echoes the Model's discussions to strictly observe and implement OSCE principles and commitments. This must be actively pursued by all member states. The ability to cast aside these commitments should not be ignored any longer. New and innovative methods of encouraging, and even insuring, compliance must be developed. Discredited principles will only breed scepticism, not security, in Europe. That's why we believe that security in the OSCE region must be based on shared values.

Estonia agrees with the main principles set forth within the Security Model — that future security be based on a comprehensive and co-operative sense of security and its indivisibility. The indivisibility of security, however, could be endangered by compromise. For example, the renegotiation of the CFE Treaty may resulted in the exact opposite of what we seek to achieve if the security of one state is strengthened at the expense of others.

Estonia supports the principle that every state may freely choose and change their security structures and agreements. At a time when European organisations are developing along with the new security landscape, we must not hinder integration and involvement by limiting choices.

Estonia, as a small nation, seeks practical and pragmatic steps to advance European security. While looking to future security prospects, we cannot turn away from strengthening existing tools and norms. Curiously, the decision on a security model we adopt today encompasses the fields of our present OSCE activities. Maybe the Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the Twenty First Century can be summed up by the four letters of O S C E.

Lithuania

Braszauskas, Poland's President Pledge Good Relations

LD1112115495 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president's spokesman told Lithuanian Radio that President Algirdas Brazauskas and newly elected Polish President Aleksandr Kwasniewski had a telephone conversation today. The Lithuanian president extended his congratulations once again to Aleksandr Kwasniewski on his election victory and expressed his conviction that good-neighborly Polish-Lithuanian relations will continue to develop in the spirit of constructiveness and their further reinforcement.

Kwasniewski stressed that both he and the people who will be working with him at the president's office will do everything so that good-neighborly relations with Lithuania are made even closer, and that this will be to the benefit of the people of both the states.

Algirdas Brazauskas invited Aleksandr Kwasniewski to visit Lithuania, and the invitation was accepted with gratitude. The date of the visit will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.

Belarus Protests 'Sanctuary of Communism' Label

LD0812213595 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 8 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian Ambassador to Lithuania Yawgen Vaytovich has submitted a protest note to the secretary of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry concerning an article entitled: A Week in the Sanctuary of Communism, published in the 6 December issue of the (?LIETUVOS AIDAS) daily.

The ambassador said that such articles do not contribute to friendly Belarusian-Lithuanian relations, the Information Department of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry reports.

Ambasssador Yawgen Vaytovich told Albinas Januska [secretary of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry] that he is aware that the press in Lithuania is free and he believes that the official Lithuanian stance has nothing to do with the opinion voiced by the writers of the report. However, he expressed the conviction that ethical norms exist which should also be observed in interstate relations.

Foreign Ministry Secretary Albinas Januska stressed that Lithuania favors developing good-neighborly relations with Belarus and expressed the hope that the independent press and articles appearing in it should not affect friendly relations.

The Foreign Ministry secretary [words indistinct] to ratify the treaty on good-neigborly relations and cooperation, and agreement on the state border.

Prime Minister Arrives on Visit to China

LD1012150495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0440 GMT 10 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing, 10 Dec (ITAR-TASS) — Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius today arrives on an official visit to China for the first time in the history of relations between China and Lithuania. He will discuss extending bilateral trade and economic relations and look at a range of international issues of mutual interest.

During his four-day visit to China at the invitation of Prime Minister Li Peng, he will hold talks with China's head of government and will be received by Chinese President Jiang Zemin, ITAR-TASS has learned.

Under the communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states, signed in September of 1991, Vilnius undertook to regard Taiwan as an inseparable part of Chinese territory, while Beijing pledged to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lithuania.

Once diplomatic relations were established, the defense minister-led delegation of Lithuania's military went to China, in particular, to "consolidate friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries' defense ministries." During the Lithuanian foreign minister's visit to Beijing in 1992, both states also signed a consular treaty and an agreement on visa-free travel by Chinese and Lithuanian citizens in possession of diplomatic and official passports.

However, support by some of the Lithuanian Seimas deputies for an "independent Tibet" is a "serious problem" casting a shadow on bilateral relations.

At the end of May of this year, Beijing strongly criticized the activity of certain political circles in Lithuania over their initiative to hold in Vilnius "a parliamentary peace forum in support of an independent Tibet" attended by delegations from more than 20 countries, including the United States. The forum called on the Lithuanian Government to reconsider its policy toward China and urged Beijing to grant Tibetan independence.

Minister Signs Free Trade Agreement With EFTA

LD0712214695 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 7 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lithuanian Minister of Trade and Industry Kazimieras Klimasauskas has signed on behalf of the government a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association.

This is the first time EFTA has expanded its trade links into the territory that was formerly administrated by the Soviet Union.

The Foreign Ministry told the Baltic News Service that the agreement indicates further integration into Western Europe's economic system and by no means runs counter to Lithuania's goal to become a member of the European Union.

The European Free Trade Association comprises Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein who are not members of the European Union.

The free trade treaties between EFTA and the Baltic states regulate trade in industrial products as well as processed agricultural and fish products.

Trade in agricultural production will be regulate by separate agreements to be signed with the individual members of the Association.

EFTA's agreements with Latvia and Estonia provide no transitory period. Lithuania, meanwhile, has been given five years for abandoning its customs duties on industrial products.

Lithuanian diplomats view this as an advantage, which will give Lithuania time for restructuring its economy and letting Lithuanian producers better prepare for competition on Western markets.

European Protocol on Human Rights Ratified

*WS0812095195 Vilnius ELTA in English
1738 GMT 7 Dec 95*

[From "News Bulletin" No. 902]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, December 7, ELTA — On Thursday Lithuanian Seimas ratified the first protocol of the European convention on protection of human rights and freedoms.

The protocol regulates property rights of nationals. The decree on ratification of the protocol was presented by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

The law passed by the Seimas foresaw, that the property guarantees foreseen in the first article of the European conventio on protection of humant rights and freedoms would applied only in those property relations arising after enaction of the protocol in Lithuania.

72 Seimas members voted for the law.